

Daily Report

Latin America

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Regional Media Organization Condemns TV Marti
*PA2503062990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0123 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (EFE)—The eighth general assembly of the Action of National Information Systems [Accion de Sistemas Informativos Nacionales] (ASIN), which was attended by representatives from 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries, today condemned the U.S. Government's plans to begin television transmissions beamed to Cuba.

ASIN, which ended a three-day meeting here today, agreed to create a Latin American press agency and unanimously approved a resolution urging the U.S. Government to cancel its plans to beam television programs to Cuba through TV Marti.

The resolution notes that such transmissions can hinder telecommunications services from third countries and generate conflicts that will disturb the political climate in the region and lead to critical situations.

The ASIN assembly approved the creation of a Latin American press agency, whose main office will be in Caracas and which will distribute news from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Antigua, Argentina, Bolivia, Barbuda, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The assembly also approved the integration into ASIN of Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Haiti, Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belize.

ASIN was created in 1979 and is composed of press agencies and public information services of the previously mentioned countries.

Callejas Announces Regional Summit Postponement
*PA2603015490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0022 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (DPA)—Presidents Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras, Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, and Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala claim to have prior commitments late this month and virtually all of next month, which make it impossible to hold the planned regional summit, the Honduran president announced this afternoon.

President Callejas has paid lightning visits to several Central American countries, traveling to Guatemala yesterday, El Salvador earlier today, and Costa Rica this afternoon.

During a news conference, the Honduran president said Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani informed him that because of a visit which he will make to Venezuela late this month he will not be able to attend the Managua summit during the first three months of the year, as was

recommended at the previous meeting held in San Isidro de Coronado in Costa Rica.

Callejas added that, during his visit to Guatemala, President Cerezo had informed him of commitments abroad during the early part of April. Callejas noted that he is scheduled to make a visit to the United States from 16 to 22 April which he cannot postpone.

The Honduran president also recalled that during the month of April the Central American foreign ministers will hold a meeting in Dublin of the San Jose Group of Six, which would prevent them from preparing for a regional summit.

In view of the above, Salvadoran political circles are of the opinion that the Central American presidents, who have several years to go before they end their terms, no longer plan to meet with Sandinist Daniel Ortega and will discuss the restructuring of regional policy with the new President-elect, Violeta de Chamorro.

At a news conference this afternoon at Ilopango Airport, Callejas, who is accompanied by Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata and Economy and Commerce Minister Ramon Medina Luna, said his visit was to strengthen relations among the countries of the region and to discuss topics of bilateral and common interest to the area.

The Honduran president believes that when the political problems of the area are resolved, an economic summit is in order to reactivate the common market and the economy of these countries.

He said that for Honduras, for instance, the contras' stay in Honduran territory has represented an enormous economic cost whose negative effects not only affect Honduras, but all of the region. He expressed his satisfaction with the agreements reached on 23 March for demobilization of the contras.

"Now we envision a horizon of well-being, and we hope that Honduras can emerge from that rate of negative growth created by the violence of foreign groups," Callejas stated.

Regarding the visit to El Salvador, he said they had discussed topics of bilateral interest such as the electrical interconnection between the two countries so one can send electricity to the other, and a "dry canal" as a means to permit the Salvadorans to have an outlet to the Atlantic Ocean and the Hondurans to the Pacific Ocean.

The "dry canal" project between Honduras and El Salvador dates back several years and could be achieved making use of a highway to link the Atlantic and the Pacific. This would permit trade movements from ports on one ocean to another without passing through the Panama Canal as they have had to do thus far.

Nothing was discussed regarding the border problems between El Salvador and Honduras because this problem has been taken to the International Court of The Hague,

President Callejas said. He noted that "whenever a ruling is issued, we will abide by it."

At approximately 1700 this afternoon President Callejas and his entourage continued their trip to San Jose, Costa Rica, where they will stay overnight, according to their spokespersons.

Latin American Parliament Issues Resolutions

*PY2403023490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0225 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] La Paz, 21 Mar (EFE)—Latin American Parliament President Humberto Pelaez, a Colombian citizen, stated today that the resolutions approved on 20 March by almost 50 members from 15 countries show "the desire of the continent to live in peace, without foreign aggression, without armed conflicts, and in accordance with its own will."

The 15th special assembly of the Latin American Parliament, which ended last night in La Paz, reconfirmed that Latin American countries want respect for their sovereignty, self-determination for their peoples, and a cessation of armed conflicts in the region.

"It was one of the most successful assemblies of the Latin American Parliament," Pelaez stated. He was referring

to the unanimous approval of the most important resolutions, which have been sent to international forums and governments on the continent.

The Latin American Parliament, which met for two days in La Paz, strongly condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December 1989, asked the United States to withdraw its troops from that country, and demanded an end to support for the Nicaraguan "contras" and their demobilization.

The parliament also unanimously rejected the presence of foreign troops in Latin American countries to fight drug trafficking, the use of biological weapons, and the militarization of the antidrug struggle, as these actions "would provoke political and social instability."

Other resolutions urge the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to cease hostilities and to seek dialogue for a negotiated solution to the conflict which has caused the deaths of thousands of people and the destruction of the Salvadoran economy.

The members of the Latin American Parliament asked the new Chilean Government and Congress to express their willingness to resolve the problem of Bolivia's landlocked situation and to facilitate the resumption of bilateral relations, which have been severed since 1978.

Cuba

Castro on Socialism, Nation's Plans for Future

PA2303230290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has confessed: Many people, including friends, have given us their condolences during our lifetime because they are confused by the crisis that prevails in socialism.

Castro termed the situation in Eastern Europe as disastrous in an interview with the newspaper's correspondent in Brazil, published today by the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR.

The Cuban leader accused the Polish and Hungarian Governments of perpetrating the most despicable action when they voted against his country at the UN Human Rights Committee in exchange for loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He emphasized that he feels no sympathy for Lech Walesa, leader of the Polish labor union Solidarity, because he met with worms (Cubans living in the United States) and declared himself an enemy of Cuba.

Castro praised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev but denied that the reforms adopted in that country are applicable in Cuba, stating that the two countries have experienced different processes—for example, there were no Stalinist purges or mandatory collectivization of agriculture in Cuba.

First, they criticized us for being Soviet satellites, and now they accuse us of not doing what the Soviets do, the Cuban president remarked.

Referring to democracy in Cuba, he said that no one has been repressed with tear gas or dogs on the Caribbean island, and everyone is armed. He asked if the people are armed in countries that declare themselves democratic.

He warned that a U.S. invasion of his country would provoke the death of at least 250,000 U.S. soldiers, and it would be a matter of waiting for the U.S. people's reaction when the caskets began to arrive.

Castro said that, given the U.S. military and economic threats against Cuba—which it wants to annihilate economically—his country will go to the world markets to increase Latin American countries' investments in Cuban territory.

If the USSR takes away our oil supply, we will look for it on the world market and this would not affect us. We could resist five more years, or as long as necessary, the reverses of an economic strangulation, because the Cuban people have prepared for this, he asserted.

Havana Notes Bush Remarks on U.S. Policy

FL2403012790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] President George Bush reiterated today that the United States will maintain its current policy of pressure on and hostility toward Cuba. Bush added that the same pressure will be maintained on our country as was applied with the CSSR, Poland, and other countries with the purpose of changing the governmental system. The U.S. President referred to the Cuban matter for the third time this week during a news conference in the White House with regional newspaper reporters.

Marlin Fitzwater, the president's spokesman, admitted that the United States has a policy to isolate Cuba, specifically, a total embargo against everything and anyone who visits the island.

Bush repeated the conditions mentioned on 19 March for a possible normalization of relations with Cuba, which are considered unacceptable by the Havana government, according to PRENSA LATINA reports. This same source notes the remarks made by Ariel Ricardo, spokesman for the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, who said that for 31 years different U.S. governments have stipulated different conditions. He added the problem is that the Cuban people are the only ones to decide on the future of the country. The official asserted this is not a decision Mr. Bush makes.

Soviet Arms Linked to Relations With U.S.

FL2403015390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2344 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Washington, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Soviet Union will reduce its arms shipments to Cuba if that country will improve its relations with the United States, Soviet Ambassador to Havana Yuriy Petrov said today.

In a report originating in Havana and intercepted here, Petrov said that the best way in which we can reduce the shipment of weapons to Cuba is for there to be an improvement in Cuban-U.S. relations. The diplomat said that the possibility of a reduction in the shipment of weapons to the Caribbean island has been under discussion by Moscow and Havana authorities for some time now. He stressed that the feasibility of this depended and continues to depend on the state of relations between Havana and Washington.

The Cubans still feel threatened by the possibility of a U.S. military invasion, which is why they have maintained their request for weapons, Petrov said. The Cubans are our friends and one should help his friends, the diplomat added.

Armed Forces Says U.S. Aerostats for Spying*FL2403005790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0033 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Havana 24 Mar (NOTIMEX)—A radar aerostat will be raised off the eastern coast of Cuba as part of the barrier of balloons the United States plans to locate on its southern border with Mexico and the Caribbean, in the fight against aerial drug trafficking.

The BASTION newspaper, official organ of the Cuban Armed Forces, today reported that a U.S. ship, followed by a radar aerostat is approaching the Guantanamo Naval Base, U.S. military enclave located in the eastern part of Cuba.

The first U.S. vigilance balloon was situated in the Bahamas on 7 March to close the Caribbean Sea air routes to drug traffickers' airplanes that transport South American drugs to the United States. According to BASTION, four of those types of aerostats are now operating in the Caribbean Sea and they have been located in strategic points near Jamaica, Bahamas, between the waters that separate Cuba from the Mexican peninsula of Yucatan, and in Guantanamo. The newspaper said that the aerostats contain a multiple vigilance system known as "Start," which is capable of detecting aerial signals in a 38,000 square-km area, elaborating maps, and transmitting radiophotos.

The Cuban Armed Forces said that the mission of the aerostats is espionage, in addition to the interception of drug traffickers' airplanes, since they have a direct visibility of 110 km and a highly versatile radar system.

During the first days of March, U.S. customs officials said that the aerostat barriers project is to be extended the length of the entire southern border of the United States with Mexico and the Caribbean, from the Pacific coast to Puerto Rico.

TV Marti Aerostat Also Allegedly for Espionage*FL2403013990 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] A report from the Spanish news agency, EFE, says that the aerostat the anti-Cuban television station will use to broadcast signals from the United States to our country may also be used for espionage against Cuba. A spokesman for the U.S. Air Force confirmed that tests are currently being conducted in Cudjoe Key, Florida, to determine if both functions can be compatible. If this proves to be unfeasible, two aerostats from that same location will probably be used to link radioelectronic espionage with the broadcast of television signals, EFE adds.

Meanwhile, Johns Hopkins University Professor Wayne Smith of Washington said that the television station is illegal and violates the 1989 resolutions of the International Communications Conference.

UNESCO Group Statement Against TV Marti*FL2403190090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The Council of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications has issued a statement in Paris against the use of television transmissions that harm the integrity and sovereignty of independent nations. The group of Latin American countries that are UNESCO members point out in the document that broadcasts with a destabilizing intent violate the elementary principles of international law.

Diplomats who participated in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications have said that the text of the statement refers to the anti-Cuban television project, although it is not mentioned directly. The Cuban delegation had denounced the plans of the U.S. Government to broadcast television signals to our country.

Break in Relations With Panama 'Not Certain'*FL2303223990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2130 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Havana, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Cuban diplomatic sources commented today that the expulsion of Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora was expected although it does not necessarily mean a break of relations between the two countries. They confirmed that the ambassador has 120 hours to leave Panama, at which time he will return to Havana. Although a break in relations between the two countries is not ruled out, official Cuban circles are not certain this will happen.

Regarding the response the government would give to the expulsion of its ambassador to Panama, the sources indicated that Cuba has only broken diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic, Israel, and Chile during the last 30 years of the Cuban revolution.

The Panamanian Government expelled yesterday the Cuban ambassador because it believed Cuban authorities have maintained a position of harassment, hostility, and animosity toward the President Guillermo Endara regime.

Finally, the source confirmed that Cuba buys Panama over \$100 million worth of goods a year, thus, they are not interested in breaking diplomatic relations.

Castro on Uproar Over Remarks on Monarchy*LD2503060190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish
1300 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro said on Cuban television that he treats Spanish affairs in a familiar way and without any intention of causing offense. Castro acknowledged that his statements in Brazil on the hereditary and nonelective nature of the Spanish and British monarchies had caused an uproar in our country, but he said that he had made them in jest and had not intended to offend the king of Spain or any Spanish institution.

The Cuban president once again gave Spain as an example of the Cuban situation, in which the intention is to resist the pressures of the United States without concession. To this end he cited the reconquest, the war of independence, and the resistance put up by the towns of Sagunto and Numancia [in Roman times].

Regarding his conversation with Felipe Gonzalez in Brazil, where they were both attending the installation of President Collor de Mello, he said they had discussed elections, but here we have not only the vote, but also arms, and we will be victorious if Cuba is attacked.

Japanese Senator on Purpose of Visit to Country

*FL2303133790 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Japanese Senator Antonio Inoki is now in our country at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Japanese Senator Antonio Inoki arrived in Havana this afternoon. He was met at the airport by Deputies Ernesto Suarez and Felix Moreno. Mr. Inoki has arrived in Cuba after attending the presidential inauguration in Brazil and visiting Nicaragua. Senator Inoki talked about the purpose of this visit to Cuba.

[Begin Inoki recording, in Japanese with simultaneous Spanish translation] This is my second visit to this country. I have just come from Nicaragua, and I also visited Brazil. As my second trip to this country, I am a little excited and very happy because I have some projects I want to talk about with my Cuban friends. There are several topics I want to discuss here: first, exchanges in the field of sports and also in the field of agriculture—I have my experience in Brazil—and also other economic areas. Also in Japan soon, in November, there will be the ceremony to crown the new emperor; I hope there will be participation by high-ranking authorities from this country. [end recording]

Cooperation Workers Return From Nicaragua

*FL2403131290 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] In accordance with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz's statements at the closing of the fifth congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, and after coordination with the Sandinist People's Army, all the Cuban military cooperation workers who were serving in the Republic of Nicaragua were withdrawn on 23 March. Division General Sixto Batista Santana, alternate Politburo member and CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] national coordinator, along with other generals, heads, and officials of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], welcomed these cooperation workers back to the country.

Later they were given an official welcome in a ceremony held in the Universal Room of the FAR. Present at the ceremony were Army Corps General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, also a member of the Politburo and the interior

minister, and other FAR generals, heads, and officials. There they again reaffirmed our people's internationalist principles and the ties of love and friendship that join us to all those in the world who fight for a just cause, wherever they defend those rights. [passage omitted]

Almeida Returns From Namibian Celebrations

*FL2403124690 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1213 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba who headed the Cuban delegation to the celebrations of Namibian independence, returned to Cuba last night. During his stay in Windhoek, Almeida held important meetings with the authorities of that African country and with figures such as antiapartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

Meanwhile, Joseph Kanyenye, head of the permanent SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] mission in Cuba, held a reception in the Havana Convention Center on the occasion of the declaration of the Republic of Namibia. Julio Camacho Aguilera, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, headed the list of guests from the Central Committee and the government who attended the reception, which was also attended by members of the diplomatic corps.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Eugenia Charles To Chair OECS Summit in May

*FL2303172190 Bridgetown CANA in English
1606 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23, CANA—Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, who faces a general election this year, takes over the chairmanship of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) during its 17th summit here from May 24-25.

When Ms. Charles last served as chairman of the eight-nation grouping she approved the U.S. invasion of member state Grenada in 1983. The summit will be preceded by a meeting of ministers of economic affairs, according to officials here. The current OECS chairman is Lester Bird, the deputy prime minister of Antigua and Barbada.

Dominican Republic

Electoral Board Annuls Bogaert Candidacy

*FL2303172990 Santo Domingo Radio-Television
Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23
Mar 90*

[Text] The challenges against the Social Christian Reformist Party [PRSC] presented to the Central Electoral Board [JCE] by Fernando Alvarez Bogaert were rejected by the board, which said its ruling rejecting the

challenges was based on the fact that they were unfounded and inadmissible. Through Resolution 2/90, the JCE rejected the challenges to the ruling party's assembly and conventions, and in fact accepted President Joaquin Balaguer and Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso as valid presidential and vice presidential candidates. With its ruling, the JCE annulled the candidacies registered for the PRSC of Fernando Alvarez Bogaert and Vice Admiral (retired) Ramon Emilio Jimenez Reyes.

Grenada

Brathwaite on Government Program for Development

FL2403193090 Bridgetown CANA in English
1749 GMT 24 Mar 90

St George's, Grenada, March 24, CANA—Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite has criticised failed attempts by opposition parties to keep his National Democratic Congress (NDC) out of power although it won the most seats in general elections on March 13. The NDC won seven of the 15 seats, one short of a majority. Officials of the three other parties—the Grenada United Labour Party, which won four seats and the National Party and the New National Party with two each—sought to form a coalition administration.

The move floundered when one of the GULP's victorious candidates, Edzel Thomas, defected to the NDC to become the minister of state for works. He was later joined by the two TNP winners. In his second address to the nation, Brathwaite said those involved in the effort to keep him out of office were opportunists blatantly demonstrating a greed for power. He said that their actions have shown how they are prepared to put their own selfish interest before that of the nation.

"We as a people must always be on guard and remain forever vigilant at the schemes and treacheries of these elements that have gone crazy over power," he said.

"We must ensure that they do not destroy our country to satisfy their thirst and greed," he said.

The Grenadian leader said that his administration would give top priority in the 1990s to developing the island through the promotion of foreign trade and investment. He said that this would involve producing more quality goods in all sectors of the economy for both consumption and export. He said that the only way Grenada can move forward is through sensible planning, good management, financial integrity, and hard work.

Brathwaite also stressed the need for Grenada as part of its strategy in the decade ahead "to co-operate more and more with our Caribbean brothers in every possible field."

"This is not only necessary, it has become inevitable," he told his countrymen. He said the people of Grenada

would definitely have to improve on their work ethic in order for the country to increase productivity and be in a position to compete in an increasingly competitive world.

Brathwaite said that his government is committed to providing 15,000 new jobs in the medium term, improve the educational attainment of 27,000 students, and build homes and provide good medical attention for thousands of poor people. He also pledged to ensure freedom of the press and a free flow of information. He, however, challenged the local media to "tell and write the truth at all times."

"It is the duty of every newspaper or journal to educate our people and not to degrade the nation," he added. Before the elections, the two leading weekly newspapers, the GRENADIAN VOICE and the INFORMER, had urged the electorate to reject the NDC at the polls.

Brathwaite gave an assurance that the Grenada Government would not interfere with the Public Service Commission (PSC), the body responsible for recruiting government employees. He repeated his call for national unity. "I...call on all patriotic Grenadians to come forward to serve, to build, and so collectively enjoy the fruits of our labour," he said.

Haiti

Court of Cassation President Supports Government

FL2303150390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 22 Mar 90

[Text] Attorney Gilbert Austin [president of the Court of Cassation] disavows those who are demanding power in his name and calls for unity and reconciliation to help the new government.

Austin's press release says: While he was holding power for 72 hours, I, without constraints and in full freedom, invited General Herard Abraham to adopt, to fill the presidential vacancy, whatever national solution his patriotism dictated to him. I do not authorize any political sector or press organ to demand the provisional presidency in my name or in my favor. I invite all Haitians to unity and reconciliation to help the established government of Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot carry out its mission well.

[Radio Metropole in French at 2300 GMT on 20 March reported having received a telephone call from Daniel Narcisse of the Liaison of the Democratic Forces. Narcisse told Metropole that the current government was unconstitutional, that the government should have been turned over to the president of the Court of Cassation, and that his, Narcisse's, followers were planning to hold demonstrations.]

Council of State Proposes Security Measures

FL2303144390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The Council of State has recommended measures against insecurity. This 19-member organization representing the nation's principal institutions and its geographical departments, which is supposed to assist the executive, has recommended a series of measures aimed at countering the wave of insecurity and violence.

The measures recommended are that the police partition Port-au-Prince into specific zones, that the prefectures be dissolved, and that all civilians posted to the police corps and public administrations be disarmed.

The Council of State also asks that all delinquents, those sponsoring insecurity, and the authors of crimes and massacres committed against the population be arrested and tried, and that all individuals making public calls for sedition and violence be arrested.

The Council also advocates reconstituting the communal committees and recommends to the Army and the police that they not take sanctions against the self-defense movement in the neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince and provincial towns. The Council of State, which reminds everyone of the Army's solemn promise by its commander in chief, General Herard Abraham, to provide security, says it supports all kinds of legal action aimed at eradicating insecurity.

These recommendations were made during a meeting held on 20 March with the ministers of Interior and Justice and the commander in chief of the Army. It was presided over by the chief of state, Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot.

Violence Continues on Streets of Port-au-Prince

FL2303145990 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Violence persists in the capital. Two people have been killed this morning. Mobile unit 20 has just told us about an alleged detective lynched by a crowd in the Caridad section of town, and late this morning, a money changer was shot and killed by individuals in a car near Delmas 41. These people, after killing the money changer, made off with his money. This crime has caused panic in the area. [passage omitted]

Situation Remains Turbulent

FL2303212290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpts] There has been a flareup of violence in the capital for the past week. Last night alone, 10 people were killed and a number of people were wounded in new acts of violence. Seven of the people killed were members of vigilance brigades. The others were lynched

by the population, and their bodies set on fire. Thus there are several bodies lying on the pavement in various parts of the capital.

Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines is blocked in Portail Saint-Joseph by barricades erected by vigilance brigade members who are protesting the death of three of their companions during the night.

Vigilantes are also searching cars at different points in town, such as near Altagrace Church in Delmas, where there is a big traffic jam. [passage omitted] There was much automatic-weapons fire heard in several neighborhoods. [passage omitted]

De Ronceray Claims Soldiers Fired on Wife

FL2303190490 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles
Internationales in Creole 1130 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The vigilance brigades continue operating in Port-au-Prince. Meanwhile, armed individuals continue to sow panic and kill people. We have reports that two people were killed last night. [passage omitted]

As we announced yesterday afternoon, at approximately 1530 Mrs. Hubert de Ronceray was shot in the left shoulder on Fontamara 27, according to reliable sources. [passage omitted] Hubert de Ronceray says it was policemen from Lamentin [an area in the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince] who fired on the vehicle. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Hubert de Ronceray] Yesterday afternoon, at around 1600, Mrs. de Ronceray had just picked up the (?children) at school and when she got to Fontamara 29, just a few meters from home, soldiers in olive green uniforms from the school of military instruction [in Lamentin] fired a burst of automatic weapons fire at the car Mrs. de Ronceray was driving. She was hit by one bullet in the left shoulder. We rushed her to the hospital in Diquini where they removed the bullet and she was back home last night. It seems she is out of danger, thanks be to God.

[Reporter] Are you sure the people firing on the car were members of the Armed Forces?

[De Ronceray] Yes. It is clear. The entire neighborhood saw it. In fact, Mrs. de Ronceray had seen the military following her, and she saw when they aimed the machine guns or whatever they were armed with—Uzi's or Galils, or whatever. [passage omitted]

I think yesterday's incident is part of a plan to destroy the MDN [Mobilization for National Development]. [passage omitted]

I must tell you that the Port-au-Prince police reacted very promptly and effectively. The minute they heard the news, they sent out officers and soldiers from the military department of the police [words indistinct] Mrs. De Ronceray was put under the protection of the police, who accompanied her, and we had (?guards) all last

night. Thus, I can tell you that the police [words indistinct] with effectiveness. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Regarding the matter of insecurity, certain people have suggested that if the Haitian Army is unable to provide security for the population, the government should ask for UN troops. What is your position on this?

[De Ronceray] I think the population of Haiti is increasing rapidly, but the means it would need to control this demographic growth are diminishing rather than increasing. Thus, I (?see) that there is a gap between the amount of security the Haitian population needs and the resources the Armed Forces or police forces have at their disposal. Consequently, I think quick action should be taken to have training schools to permit us to prepare a much larger police force that can respond better to the demands being made by the population. And meanwhile, we think there would have to be immediate assistance, so we could prepare, recycle, individuals in record time to provide much more (?effective) security throughout Haiti. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PUCH's Bourjolly Says Macoute Plan in Effect

*FL2303185990 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles
Internationales in Creole 1130 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In a news conference Max Bourjolly [second in command of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH] had already warned that the macoutes had a plan to effect a massacre in Haiti that they would put into effect if General Avril were ever overthrown. Bourjolly now declares that the macoute plan is being carried out. Here is Max Bourjolly.

[Begin recording] [Bourjolly] The macoute plan is in effect the way our information said it would be. Of course, many of the particulars of their arrangements have been modified. It seems they had planned to send the Presidential Guard and the undercover detectives out against the population, certain bourgeois sectors, and political leaders.

However, the population's mobilization, the pressure from foreign countries, and the split that occurred in the Army did not allow them to apply the plan in exactly the way they had planned. Now they have changed tactics.

Avril did not fall brutally. Before falling, he took one camp and had time to mobilize it, explain, prepare, and plan how, in small commandos, they could carry out the aforementioned plan. It is this plan that they are carrying out today and that is why you find small groups of people punctually attacking a certain number of prominent figures—the way they attacked Mrs. Hubert de Ronceray yesterday, the way they went and attacked Lalue, and the way that just last night, they sowed panic in the area around the residence of [Edouard] Tardieu [head of the Social Christian People's Party of Haiti]. This is all part of the same scenario.

While we are talking about this, I can tell you that we have precise information to the effect that these same thugs have taken steps to strike today at either Rene Theodore [head of the PUCH] or myself, in the streets of Port-au-Prince. The situation is extremely serious and we think that the public powers should make an extra effort with security measures for the population, and should also provide the necessary security for the heads of political parties.

Every time there is an uprooting at the home of a regime big shot, the Army shows up and clears out the uprooters. It manhandles them and locks them up in jail. That is a fact that we have noted. However, we have also noted that the troops are never on the spot when it is a member of the group of 12 who is falling victim or who is in danger of falling victim. They also think the vigilance brigades hinder the Army's action. However, we note that the Army is not deployed in insecure areas where no vigilance brigades are on guard.

What we ourselves would suggest is that the Haitian Army reach agreement with the group of 12 so we could negotiate with the vigilance brigades. Everywhere there is a brigade there could be one or two soldiers with them to help provide security and to represent the public forces. Through cooperative action in this manner between the population and the Army, an end could be put to this situation.

There are also a number of publicly-denounced figures whose role in the forces of darkness and reputation as thugs are well known by the entire nation, even without the public hue and cry. They are in Haiti and the authorities know their addresses. Even if no one has yet gone and filed a complaint against them, it would be a good idea to call them in for questioning to try to see what kind of a role they are playing today in this insecurity operation, this destabilization operation, this operation of chaos. This situation is truly intolerable. Things cannot go on this way and we think the government must take action more quickly and take measures more appropriate than those that have already been announced.

[Reporter] In connection with the insecurity issue, you just mentioned the difference in the conduct of the forces of order when it is a figure from the democratic sector or the group of 12 that is being attacked. Do you mean to say that the statements by the commander in chief, Gen. Abraham, regarding the way the Army should act are not in keeping with the actions the soldiers are taking?

[Bourjolly] I do not think the problem lies with Herard Abraham. I think that Abraham himself is well intentioned. He has all the goodwill in the world. I think we can trust him. The problem is not at the level of Herard Abraham but at the level of other, lower-ranking Army commanders. That is where there is a group of people....[changes thought] It is they who are there to carry out the instructions received, and they either obstruct things or do something else.

That is why the problem of a cleanup in the Army has been brought up, and we think that if such a cleanup is not effected, this Army, with all the deficiencies that it demonstrates every time it runs across armed thugs....[changes thought] because, while the population tries to encircle the thugs, the soldiers run. They run and hide behind the population, whereas it is they who are being paid to do the work. So there is an absence of military training.

However, there is also, in the intermediate echelons, a certain number of soldiers who either do not carry out the orders they receive or else do whatever they want. And we think that is where the problem lies. And it would be a good idea for the Ministry of Defense and the Army general staff to look into this matter to see if there are members of the Armed Forces who are themselves trying to reach an understanding with the thugs to abort the ongoing process and provoke a situation that can lead to a coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

If the public powers do not manage quickly to mobilize themselves to solve the problems, we ourselves will have to mobilize the population to solve this problem once and for all in Haiti. We would prefer to have it done according to the law, to have it done in such a way that the idea of a rule of law could be introduced into Haiti, to show that the matter can be settled in some way other than through a popular avalanche. However, if we need to have a popular avalanche to save our necks, we will have to call on the population.

[Reporter] [passage omitted] Many people think the Haitian government should call on UN troops to provide security for the population. What is your opinion on this?

[Bourjolly] No, I do not think we need UN troops. The country has enough resources to accomplish the task itself, in my opinion. It would be enough for the government to understand that....[changes thought] since it was a popular movement against Avril's repression that put this government in place, the government should understand that it has popular support, for once, and not to lose popular support, it must use it.

Because one does not have popular support forever, you know! If you mess around, if you manage this support improperly, you can lose it. The population can lose confidence in you. For this not to happen, the government must reach agreement with the people, with the popular organizations, and with the group of 12, to find an emergency formula quickly. This is going on too long. Within a week we must effect the necessary cleanup to return calm and tranquility to Haiti. This is possible. This problem can be solved in a week. [end recording]

CATH Conflict Discussed at News Conference

*FL2303203490 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] There is a conflict going on within the CATH, the Autonomous Organization of

Haitian Workers, with CATH leaders denouncing one another for crooked wheeling and dealing within the organization. CATH leaders held a news conference yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] On 18 March, the members of different CATH grass-roots committees, union delegates, and delegates from associations of agricultural workers affiliated to the union federation met at College Eliott Pierre to set up a provisional leadership committee, which will organize CATH's upcoming congress.

Several different matters were discussed at this meeting and the CATH members issued a declaration of principle in which the national committee set forth its position regarding the union federation's functioning. The national committee is in disagreement with the direction in which certain members are heading. This direction is not in keeping with the objectives of the organization. [passage omitted]

Yves Antoine Richard, secretary general of the CATH's current leadership committee, said there has been a climate of anarchy within the CATH for the past two and a half years. [passage omitted] During the news conference, Richard also denounced corruption within the CATH. Richard spoke of the rights of workers not being respected, and about crooked [preceding word in English] business being conducted at the expense of the association. [passage omitted]

Haitians Said Massacred in Dominican Republic

*FL2303180790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our Fort Liberte correspondent reports that numerous Haitians have reportedly been killed in clashes between Dominicans and Haitians in the Dominican Republic. We have not received confirmation of this news report. Nevertheless, here is the correspondent's report.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] According to information from a reliable source regarding an incident that occurred in the Dominican Republic lead to the deaths of hundreds of Haitians, the reason these Haitians were massacred in the Dominican Republic is because two Haitians killed a Dominican who was taking them to the border so they could cross over into Haiti. The Haitians killed the Dominican and took his motorcycle. This occurred on 2 or 3 March. [passage omitted]

The minute this news hit Palo Nuevo, where the Dominican lived, the Dominicans began massacring Haitians. They threw little Haitians up in the air and caught them on knives. The places where the greatest number of Haitians died is Palo Nuevo, (Canjol), and (Transwel). The radio that reported a great deal on this incident is Radio Samba. Jose F. Pena (Gomez), a black Dominican who is very popular in the Dominican Republic and who is always in favor of Haitians, asked for the Dominicans to stop shedding Haitian blood. After Pena (Gomez')

statements, President Balaguer intervened and there was a respite for the Haitians. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Our correspondent in Fort Liberte reports that he has learned from a reliable source that numerous Haitians have been killed in clashes between Dominicans and Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Forecasts Slight Growth Rate

FL2303161790 Bridgetown CANA in English
1525 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Report by Mark Lee]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 23, CANA—Three years into a term of office hit by party in-fighting and public servants' demonstrations against his economic policies, Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson doesn't appear too worried about the critics. This is understandable, considering he thinks he has his biggest headache—the persisting decline of the economy—just about licked.

"It's a tremendous programme of work that we have had to undertake in a very short space of time," he says of efforts to stabilize an economy in its seventh successive year of decline and its accompanying effects on services such as health.

"The government has been in power for only three years after succeeding one that had been in power for 30 years. I know of no country in the world which has been able to stabilise the situation as we have been able to do in such circumstances... And we have not had any bloodshed," he told CANA while on a visit in March to the regional news agency's headquarters here.

Last year the south Caribbean twin-island republic recorded a 2.3 per cent decline in gross domestic product—a performance better than the 3.7 per cent drop originally predicted by the central bank.

"It is an indication—as we had forecast that there is some improvement in the situation—that the decline is being arrested and I expect that by this year there would be a slight positive rate of growth up to about one per cent. That's our forecast," the prime minister said.

At the beginning of last year Robinson weathered a storm of protests from the unions representing the country's 65,000 public servants. The government had implemented a 10 per cent wage cut to lop TT 200 million dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) off the 4.6 billion dollars recurrent spending bill. The alternative, it said then, was to chop 5,000 jobs. The measure formed part of the government's austere economic recovery programme, a key component of which was an International Monetary Fund (IMF) 547 million dollar standby credit facility.

Even as Robinson was speaking to CANA, many of the country's 9,000 teachers at home were protesting against facilities they said were deteriorating because of spending cuts, and recent changes in the Ministry of Education's administrative system.

On the political front, the 63 year old Robinson has withstood a split in the ranks of his National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) that led to the formation of the United National Congress (UNC). The UNC is made up of dismissed Cabinet members led by ex-Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday.

Panday, a union leader whose power base is primarily among Trinidadians of East Indian descent in the island's sugar belt, has been levelling charges of bad management and racist politics at the NAR. In recent weeks, the sugar workers' union has been restive, charging that the government's restructuring plan was really destructive to the industry. Robinson, who was in Barbados for meetings of Caribbean Community leaders and between the heads and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, was pleased at the Canadian forgiveness of Can 182 million dollars in debt to the Commonwealth Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago's own portion was only Can 7 million dollars—a small part of Trinidad and Tobago's U.S. 2.2 billion dollar debt portfolio. But the move was welcomed by Robinson, who noted that Trinidad and Tobago was not a major recipient of development loans.

He told journalists when he returned home he was looking for developed countries and finance institutions to follow Canada's example.

"It sets a pattern for other developed countries to follow and we are hoping that they would and, in that case, for example, a harder look would be taken at, firstly, matters such as export credit," Robinson told reporters in Trinidad.

"We are hoping that a kinder look will be taken, a more generous look will be taken at this and, also, at some of the policies, for example, with the IMF and the World Bank."

Trinidad and Tobago is currently negotiating a second standby facility with the Fund. It is also seeking entry to relief under U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's proposals for a rescheduling of the commercial loans to debtor nations. Port of Spain's attempts to be included in the Brady Plan have been unsuccessful to date because of Trinidad and Tobago's relatively high per capita income and size of its debt portfolio. Robinson points out that his country's per capita income had dropped by nearly half since falling oil prices impacted on its economy, saying: "If one does not take that into account, then you're not really dealing with the situation."

Robinson is confident though that his country is poised for economic improvement.

"We can say we've reached the bottom of the barrel so to speak and we're seeing light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

He acknowledges that "we've had demonstrations" but notes: "It's a totally free society."

"People are so free now that they told me you know, it's the prime minister who should be seeking refugee status in Canada for the things that they heard at carnival time in the tents and on the open stage."

The reference to the 15,000 of his countrymen seeking asylum in Canada is painful to Robinson, who feels they are embarrassing Trinidad and Tobago.

"Let me say, the mere fact that all the people who have tried to stir up social trouble ...have not succeeded. Why?

It's because of the sense of responsibility of the ordinary man and woman in Trinidad and Tobago," he asserted.

"The people who are letting Trinidad and Tobago down are not the worker; it's the educated, semi-educated—lots of exhibitionists."

Robinson says he's not looking to any particular reward at the next general election, expected by December 1991.

"I don't look for rewards in public life," Robinson said. "When I entered public life, I gave my life. I don't look for rewards. What I would want to feel is that I've done the best I can in accordance with the principles that I have, in accordance with my conscience working together with my colleagues, working together to see progress in the country."

The question is whether the voters will share Robinson's perspective.

El Salvador

Venceremos Reports Honduran Troop Incursion

PA2303172390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] In previous broadcasts we reported Honduran troop incursions into Salvadoran territory. We have received new reports of such incursions.

Honduran troops entered two km inside Salvadoran territory, in Zancudo village, in the area of Sabanetas canton, Perquin jurisdiction, at 1200 on 19 March. They took 22-year-old Gilberto Molasco, son of Patricio Rodriguez, and 17-year-old Andres Argueta, son of Emisio Argueta. They were taken from their homes and their whereabouts are unknown.

On 17 March, the troops arrived in Palo Blanco village. They searched the house of Leonor Veliz, threatening to capture her son, Cristiano Benitez. They beat him up, accused him of being a guerrilla, and stole documents and money. They also told him not to report the action to the Red Cross, threatening to kill him if he did so.

The residents of these border villages have issued an appeal to the international human rights organizations because they are concerned about the fate of the two youths captured by Honduran Army troops.

Guatemala

Cerezo, Callejas Agree on 2-5 April Summit

PA2503023290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0038 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas stated today that he and his Guatemalan counterpart Vinicio Cerezo have agreed that the Central American summit should be held from 2 to 5 April in Managua.

Callejas, during a six-hour visit to Guatemala, discussed with Cerezo topics of bilateral interest and other subjects related to the Central American problem.

The Honduran president said he was "quite satisfied" with the agreements signed yesterday between "contra" representatives and representatives of Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro. They were signed in the presence of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, witness and guarantor.

The parties agreed to the demobilization and disarmament of the 12,000 "contras" based in Honduran territory by 20 April "at the latest." This is five days before Chamorro assumes power.

Callejas said that "we established (with Cerezo) that it is important to promote elections and democracy. We envision a new era of socioeconomic vitality in Central America in the coming years," he stated.

He emphasized that they will make efforts to have the summit held 2-5 April in Managua. The dates of 31 March and 1 April were cancelled because of a previously scheduled visit by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani to Venezuela.

Regarding the "contra" demobilization agreement, Callejas said that they contributed in part to promoting peace by serving as "hosts."

"We have contributed in that respect and are quite satisfied with the agreement. There is great joy in Honduras over the fact that efforts are being made so that the contras will no longer remain in Honduran territory," he stated.

The Honduran president held a news conference at the military airport in Guatemala before returning to Honduras. Tomorrow, Sunday, he will visit El Salvador, and later he will visit Costa Rica.

URNG Confirms Participation in Oslo Meeting

PA2303212290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1910 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-FE)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) today confirmed that it will attend talks—scheduled for 27-29 March in Oslo—with delegates of the National Reconciliation Commission (CRN) to discuss possible solutions to the armed conflict that has prevailed in the country for 30 years.

The URNG said in a communique sent to the news media that the talks represent a "significant and positive first step towards renewing the dialogue process between the guerrilla groups and the government."

The guerrilla groups hope that the talks will open the way for more formal talks later on with the participation of the rebels' general command.

The talks between URNG delegates and the CRN will be held given the government and Army rejection of a rebel proposal, issued on 8 March in Madrid, to hold the meeting at the highest level.

The informal meeting will be attended by Luis Becker and Francisco Villagran, members of the URNG's political-diplomatic commission, and Jorge Rossal, permanent member of the rebel organization in Europe.

The CRN delegation is led by Jorge Serrano Elias, representative of the opposition political parties; Eduardo Villatoro, secretary general; and Mario Permout, an honorable citizen.

The informal dialogue will be held three days before the Central American presidents hold their seventh summit, scheduled for 31 March and 1 April in Managua, to analyze the situation prevailing in the area.

Rebel Groups Increase Activities in Capital

PA2303173390 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] A terrorist bomb exploded on 20 March in southern Guatemala City and another has been defused by the police in the downtown area of the capital. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, has claimed responsibility for the actions.

One of the bombs exploded approximately 50 meters from the Radio Fabulosa studios on 7th Avenue and 6-A Street in Zone 9, causing damage in a building where a construction company operates. A witness said that two young men riding a motorcycle reportedly left a package that exploded and scattered hundreds of fliers with the URNG's name. Municipal firemen cleared the area and searched the sewers, looking for a second bomb. A National Police unit arrived, confiscated the fliers, and started an investigation.

The URNG fliers include a summary of its January 1990 activities and state that guerrilla forces have carried out military operations in 10 departments, particularly in the western areas and southern coasts of the country and the capital. The fliers mention 134 URNG operations—97 military operations, 31 propaganda actions, and six sabotage actions. They emphasize the most important actions: An attack on the Calvin Bridge in Quiche; the damage caused during an attack on the Pochuta military detachment; some Army casualties, 17 actions of harassment; the damaging of one military airplane in Peten; the burning of seven vehicles; the confiscation of weapons and ammunition; and the apprehension and subsequent release of four National Police members.

Another package, which presumably contained a bomb, (?was found) last night on 10th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues in Zone 1. The package was found by a citizen and the National Police took it to one of its installations for examination. Volunteer firemen were later notified that another bomb had been left inside building 765, where a Catholic radio station, Radio Horizontes, operates, adding that it would explode at 2000. Two teams—a firefighting team and a rescue team—were immediately deployed to the site. Volunteer firemen, accompanied by the assistant chief of the National Police Center for Joint Operations and several policemen, carefully searched the building, particularly on the floor where the Radio Horizontes operates. The security forces withdrew once they verified there were no explosive devices in the installations. All they found was a small package outside the building, and it was removed by the police.

The placement of these explosive devices put the fire department and special police units on alert because they received several calls announcing that other bombs could possibly explode in different points of the capital. The firemen received 14 anonymous telephone calls about the alleged placement of explosive devices. The attacks last evening follow a series of actions attributed to the guerrillas

in the countryside, including an attack on the police substation in San Pedro Sacatepequez, San Marcos Department, on Friday, 16 March; the destruction of an electric pylon on El Cabrejo farm, in San Miguel Milpas Altas, on Sunday, 17 March; and the explosion of a claymore mine on Monday, 19 March, while a military vehicle was transiting the western highway. On that occasion one soldier died and four were wounded.

Other clashes have reportedly occurred in Peten Department, where guerrilla groups carried out harassment of the highways and set up ambushes in which a military vehicle was partially destroyed and two military trucks sustained considerable damage, according to a URNG report.

Meanwhile, unidentified persons detonated another bomb at a bakery a few minutes ago, causing alarm among the people. The bakery is located on 28B Street and 13th Avenue in Zone 13. National Police members and volunteer firemen searched the area and ascertained that the bomb only caused alarm among the people. The security corps eventually left the area. This is the third device which exploded this evening.

Observers believe that the increase in guerrilla activities is a URNG strategy for the dialogue it will hold with government representatives next week in Oslo, Norway. The URNG has revealed that the guerrilla alliance's delegation to the talks with the Guatemalan Government representatives will be led by Dr. Luis Becker, one of the rebel movement's leading spokesmen. Another guerrilla leader, Commander Pablo Monsanto, has asserted that the URNG will present a proposal to the government and all the political and social groups in Guatemala to begin a democratic construction without excluding anyone.

Honduras

Foreign Minister Satisfied With Contra Agreement

PA2403051590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0413 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 March (DPA)—Honduras said tonight that the agreement to demobilize the contras from Honduran territory so that they will return to "security areas" in Nicaragua is a "historic agreement" for Central America and Nicaragua in particular.

Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata said the agreement signed by the contra leaders and the emissaries of the future Nicaraguan Government—represented by Antonio Lacayo and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo—was very "good for attaining" peace.

The "Toncontin" agreement—so-called because it was signed in the military section of the Tegucigalpa "Toncontin" Airport—establishes "that the contras' general demobilization process" is to begin "at the latest on 20 April 1990" with the assistance of international organizations.

Carias Zapata said that the Honduran Government, headed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas,

expressed "satisfaction" that the agreement was a political one and that the Nicaraguan resistance will undergo a "process of disarmament and demobilization" that will enable resistance members to enter political life.

Mark Jacobs, U.S. Embassy spokesman, said tonight that his government is "pleased" with the results of the talks between the contras and the Nicaraguan delegates held in Tegucigalpa today. He emphasized that, in his opinion, the role played by the Honduran Government in promoting the meeting between delegates of the contras and the future Nicaraguan government had been very important because it had also maintained a commission at these conversations.

Nicaragua

Reportage on Contra Demobilization Agreement

Obando, UNO Delegate Meet Press

PA2303225390 *Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish*
1526 GMT 23 Mar 90

[News conference by Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo and National Opposition Union, UNO, delegate Antonio Lacayo, with unidentified moderator and local reporters at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Force Base in Tegucigalpa on 23 March—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Media representatives, welcome to this news conference by His Excellency Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo, cardinal of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church, who has just arrived in Tegucigalpa. Cardinal Obando y Bravo wishes to make some statements to the local press before his meetings in Tegucigalpa today.

Media representatives will ask their questions according to the order in which they ask for the floor. We only have a few minutes, because His Excellency Cardinal Obando y Bravo must attend many meetings today. Let us begin this new conference, please. Journalist Dany Flores from the Hoy Mismo newscast has the floor.

[Flores] Good morning, Monsignor. Welcome to our country. My name is Dany Flores; I represent the Hoy Mismo newscast. I would like to ask you what the possibilities are for the demobilization of the contras in Honduras before Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro assumes the Nicaraguan Presidency?

[Obando y Bravo] We are seeking political solutions to our problems. We come here with the intention of meeting with the Nicaraguan armed resistance members to determine if we will stop hearing the sounds of gunfire. I believe it is necessary to put the weapons down and solve our problems through civilized means. We are going to talk. We have hope. We would not have come here if we did not have hope. We are aware that our political problems are neither simple nor easy. We trust in God and in the goodwill of the members of the armed resistance.

[Moderator] Journalist Otilio Mejia from the Opening Trails newscast.

[Mejia] Cardinal, what are the arguments you will use at the meetings you will hold with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] leaders today?

[Obando y Bravo] The arguments will be presented by a team that is accompanying me. I am accompanied by Engineer Antonio Lacayo, Mrs. Violeta's representative; Emilio Alvarez Montalvan; and Engineer Jaime Cuadra—all members of the delegation sent by Mrs. Violeta. They are bringing their proposals, and we will cooperate with them. Msgr. Bosco Vivas came with me, along with Attorney Rivas and [name indistinct], who is here in Tegucigalpa. First, we will try to assess the situation. We will then judge it and act upon our views through our talks [words indistinct].

[Moderator] Journalist Rosana Guevara from [words indistinct] has the floor.

[Guevara] [Words indistinct] what is the position of President Ortega's government [words indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] President Ortega visited me at my office at the archbishopric Curia at 1500 yesterday. He told me that the armed resistance should demobilize before 25 April. According to him, if the armed resistance fails to demobilize before that date, Nicaragua would be like a powder keg and we would run the risk of falling into a civil war. The Sandinists say that they have already taken steps toward peace. They say that they held free elections and that there is democracy in Nicaragua. In his opinion, the armed resistance no longer has a reason to continue its armed struggle. According to President Ortega, the armed resistance should demobilize before 25 April, in other words, before Mrs. Violeta assumes the Nicaraguan Presidency.

We told President Ortega that there are many people with weapons in Nicaragua. Many weapons have been distributed among civilians. We talked to him about that. He said it is true that we have distributed weapons among civilians. He admitted that we are right. He said: We distributed weapons, because after the invasion of Panama, we thought the United States was going to invade us. We also fear that the armed resistance may return to Nicaragua. We distributed weapons for that reason. Once the RN begins taking steps toward demobilization, we will try to collect the weapons we distributed. txt

[Moderator] Journalist Reyes from Radio America.

[Reyes] Thank you. Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the RN has said here in Tegucigalpa that one of the basic conditions for its demobilization is demilitarization in Nicaragua. What do you think of that? Do you think that demilitarization will really take place in Nicaragua?

[Obando y Bravo] I believe that is a question that should be answered by the Nicaraguan government-elect. I think it can [words indistinct], but it will be a very slow

process. The demilitarization will not happen overnight. Obviously, the new government will have to start taking steps [word indistinct]. I believe we should start reducing the size of the Army. I would like to replace tanks with tractors that could break up the land and help us plant beans, corn, and other food for our people. I would like to see bayonets turned into ploughs to help us prepare the land.

[Moderator] Journalist Maldonado from the newspaper EL HERALDO.

[Maldonado] Cardinal, what do you think of the Honduran Government and the people's decision to no longer allow the contra presence in Honduran territory?

[Obando y Bravo] Now that you have mentioned the Honduran Government, I would like to use this opportunity to thank Honduran President Callejas, who has kindly come to welcome us here. I also want to thank the Honduran authorities for the plane they sent to pick us up. I also want to thank His Excellency the Tegucigalpa bishop and the Honduran authorities in general.

I believe we should be thankful to the Honduran people. Many Nicaraguans have found shelter here and have been welcomed like brothers by the Honduran people. I think the Honduran people have given shelter to many Nicaraguans [words indistinct], but I believe about 30,000 of them. The Hondurans have shown charity toward the Nicaraguans who have come here. I believe that is a praiseworthy attitude. Nicaraguans should be thankful for that. Obviously, people and armed forces cannot stay in a foreign country forever. We must begin to take steps for those people to return to their own country gradually and in due time. I believe that the Honduran Government has the right to adopt that position, and Nicaraguans should be thankful for everything it has done for us.

[Moderator] The REUTER correspondent.

[Reporter] It has been said that some armed contras have returned to Nicaragua. It has also been said that various clashes have taken place within Nicaraguan territory this past week. How do you expect to deal with that situation during the conversations today?

[Obando y Bravo] I believe that if there have been clashes in Nicaragua, then there is more reason for us to accelerate this process and increase our interest in stopping the sounds of weapons. If there is still war and death in Nicaragua, then our determination to search for peace through civilized means should be strengthened.

[Moderator] Journalist Julio Armando Valdes from HRN La Voz de Honduras.

[Valdes] Thank you, very much. Cardinal, has Daniel Ortega given guarantees that he will turn in the weapons—because that is the fear of the RN—prior to the contra demobilization? And I have a second question. Should the CIAV [International Commission of Support

and Verification] and ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] have more active participation in this process?

[Obando y Bravo] I believe that question should be answered by Engineer Antonio Lacayo, since he is Mrs. Violeta's representative and is directly negotiating the change of power in Nicaragua. Would you like to answer that question Engineer Lacayo, since you have more facts with which to formulate an opinion on this?

[Lacayo] As for the first part of your question, there is absolutely no doubt that the Sandinist government will turn over government, power, and everything that Mrs. Violeta's election victory on 25 February entails. The constitutional [word indistinct] of Nicaragua has clearly stated that it is determined to obey the future commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Nicaragua, Violeta de Chamorro.

Concerning the participation of ONUCA and the CIAV, we believe that they definitely play an important role in this situation. However, they need the authorization of the current Nicaraguan government, of the incoming Nicaraguan government, and of the RN to proceed in helping, because the demobilization of the RN is definitely a voluntary action, according to the Tela agreements. Therefore, one of our goals today is to talk with the RN members so that they will present a request before ONUCA—just as the new government and the outgoing government did—so that ONUCA and the CIAV will be able to play the role they have been called on to play.

[Moderator] Gentlemen of the press, there will be one last question in this news conference. We want to announce that this afternoon, His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will host a news conference in the Blue Room of the Government Palace. He will hold that news conference after he has held several meetings [words indistinct]. We will give you one last opportunity to ask questions, and then in the afternoon you will be able to receive new information.

[Reporter] What is the Ortega government's stand concerning the extension of the ONUCA mandate, which specifies that Venezuelan Armed Forces are to receive the weapons from the contras?

[Lacayo] The organization that will receive the weapons is ONUCA. ONUCA has asked several governments to provide the weapons to members of their Armed Forces, and we understand that the Venezuelan Government has said that it is very willing to cooperate in this regard. However, ONUCA will officially receive the weapons. We completely agree with that, inasmuch as it is a UN institution that merits our government's respect. The fact that the organization will be receiving the weapons will give the RN members assurances that this is a peace process, and does not represent in any way a surrender.

We are talking here about contributions for building peace in Nicaragua. As Cardinal Obando y Bravo said,

this is what all Nicaraguans want. We want weapons turned into farming equipment or placed in some museum, as Violeta says. This is the beginning of a new Nicaragua, within a democratic framework, where all Nicaraguans—whether contras, Sandinists, or exiles—have the same rights to build the future we have all longed during these long years.

[Moderator] We have one minute left. The reporter from Costa Rica's Radio Impacto will ask a question.

[Reporter] We are worried about peace in Central America. Just two days before the elections for a constituent assembly in Honduras, a clandestine subversive group is operating in Tegucigalpa. The Armed Forces reported that this group comes from Nicaragua, where it was armed. Will the new government help control this type of situation, so that we can also live in peace here in Honduras?

[Lacayo] As you must understand, what has happened in Nicaragua is the victory of a civic and democratic option that deeply respects the Central American peace agreements signed by the presidents, who have been vital for achieving our goals thus far. These agreements specify that national territories should never be used by forces that will attack other Central American states. Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro is deeply convinced that democracy should function throughout Central America and that it should be consolidated. Our country is the last, at long last, to join this democratic group. I believe that within the next few months, we will be observing how all Central American democracies are strengthened, as a result of all governments being in the hands of persons who were elected by the people.

Therefore, subversive options—or any other options designed to change the fate of these people through means others than elections—will be reduced to a minimum. Undoubtedly, the new government seeks to contribute in every way possible toward creating throughout the rest of Central America an atmosphere of peace. All of us Central Americans have been hoping for this for many long years.

[Moderator] Gentlemen of the press: We will expect you this afternoon in the Blue Room of the Government Palace for a news conference. Thank you.

Demobilization To Begin 20 April

PA2403000890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2340 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A high-level Nicaraguan delegation and a contra negotiating commission agreed today in Tegucigalpa to begin the armed anti-Sandinists' demobilization no later than 20 April, thus putting an end to a war which began in 1981.

The agreement, achieved during a seven-hour negotiating session, was signed by Antonio Lacayo, representative of Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro,

and rebel Commander Oscar Sovalbarro ("Commander Ruben"), and by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, as witness and guarantor.

The demobilization will include 8,000 contras who are refugees in Honduras and approximately 4,000 who are inside Nicaragua participating in military actions, it was reported upon conclusion of the meeting in Tegucigalpa.

Joint Communique Issued

PA2403023890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
0114 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Joint communique issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance and the National Opposition Union negotiation commission in Tegucigalpa on 23 March; read by Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo at the Augusto C. Sandino International Airport in Managua—live]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance's [RN] negotiation commission has recognized that the elections, held in Nicaragua with freedom, honesty, and efficiency on 25 February, led to the victory of the Nicaraguan people's will to establish a democratization process through the winning formula Barrios - Godoy - Reyes, National Opposition Union [UNO] candidates.

This historic event makes it possible for us to declare that we have begun the general demobilization of our forces, starting by disarming those who are still in Honduras, no later than 20 April. For this, we are requesting the immediate cooperation and assistance of international organizations, such as ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and CIAV [International Commission for Support and Verification], and Cardinal Obando.

Military confrontations in Nicaragua must cease at once. For this, the following steps are to be taken:

1. A cease-fire must be observed by both sides and verified by international organizations, such as ONUCA and CIAV, and Cardinal Obando.
2. Our armed forces currently in Nicaragua should gather in security zones previously set aside in Nicaraguan territory and supervised by the international organizations mentioned, as well as by Cardinal Obando, so demobilization can take place in a climate of security and order that can guarantee the lives of our brothers and their peaceful activities.

The delegation that represents President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro says the following:

First, we are pleased to hear about the decision made by the RN to initiate the demobilization process beginning today.

Second, as an expression of legitimate recognition of the patriotic job done by the RN, it is necessary to protect the war wounded, orphans, and widows, who were innocent victims of the armed struggle. After assuming power, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro promises to

implement a process for the rehabilitation and social re-adaptation of the victims. They will also have the right to the appropriate monthly pensions.

Third, to implement the agreement, a special transition commission has been appointed made up of members of the new government and the RN, whose names will be announced in the next few days.

Fourth, the new government headed by Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro promises to ask the appropriate governments for humanitarian aid for the members of the RN as well as medical infrastructures for the proper treatment of victims of the conflict during the demobilization process.

Moreover, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has stated that he is pleased with the patriotic decisions that have been made, and he joins the signatories in thanking the Lord for enlightening the parties involved.

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, Honduras 23 March 1990

[Signed] Antonio Lacayo, Dr Emilio Alvarez Montalban, Commander Ruben, and Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo

Ortega on Demobilization

PA2503042890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
0005 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega to the National Confederation of Professional Associations at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...I went by Cafe Colorada, and the Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAC] people were meeting there. I have been listening to the positions that have been stated. I have taken note of all the positions. It would take too long to respond to all the statements, but I can tell you that we have taken notes and that all of us will try to answer as many of the problems that have been listed here in as brief a period of time as possible.

You have listed some problems. The UNAC comrades also listed some problems today. These problems have to do with the debt of the cotton sector, of the basic grains producers, and of the cooperatives. I told them that we are going to restructure those debts and to write them off so that they may continue working. We also discussed the debts they have in connection with the vehicles, machinery, and equipment that have been delivered to them. They are concerned that the new government may take the land, transport vehicles, machinery, and equipment from them.

Sorghum and coffee producers discussed payments. The sorghum growers spoke about some three percent of their production that is being retained and that we were to return some time ago. We discussed many points that have to do with the economic situation and with the

productive activities of the agricultural and livestock sectors of Nicaragua. The cattlemen also made some proposals.

How must technicians, professionals, and the Nicaraguans who are in favor of the Sandinist Front, of the revolutionary process, look at the situation that will emerge as of 25 April?

When I was talking with producers, I told them: Producers who are not prepared to take risks will never be producers. To be a producer one has to be prepared to run risks, to constantly defend production.

When producers go to a bank and acquire bank credits, and then they go to a store and buy seeds, supplies, and parts, and rent tractors, they are investing. They are going to plant, but are they going to harvest? The harvest may be good, but it also may be bad. If the harvest is bad but the producer is prepared [two-second break in transmission], he would die as a producer and will never again produce. However, producers know that production processes that involve planting, cleaning, maintenance, and a harvest represent risks. Often, regardless of the efforts, there is failure. A farmer may have irrigation systems, but then there is the danger of plague. The farmer could have used chemical products to fight the plague, but still he may not be able to keep the plague from destroying much of the harvest.

Perhaps there is no plague and the farmer has an irrigation system. Perhaps there is no drought but in fact too much rain, and then his harvest will be negatively affected by an excess of rain. Producers do not always come out with profits. They do not always come out ahead after harvest time. This is life. Since the day he is born, man lives to stumble and then get up again. A man who does not know how to get up after stumbling will not survive. The revolutions that are able to unite men, producers, technicians, women, youth, peasants, workers, and all the sectors of society are very strong. This allows the people to get ahead in spite of obstacles, and to get up after stumbling.

We have to understand first of all—and this is very important for our stability as revolutionaries, as men and women identified with a revolutionary process—what the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] said in October 1977, prior to the revolutionary victory, when we launched an offensive that was polemical because the Front was divided. The offensive was criticized by many. That offensive represented a new form of struggle in the popular war. It produced much criticism, much questioning, and much condemnation. That military offensive, which was nothing but a political expression of the struggle headed by the Sandinist Front, was accompanied by a broad and flexible political movement to put the people on the streets. This is how the Group of the Twelve came into being. This group was also polemical and was criticized, and it was not accepted at first.

At that time, we said that we had to do something different in Nicaragua. This was not just an idea that popped into our heads overnight, at a moment when the front had differences.

What later became known as the Tercerista Tendency was nothing but members of the front's directorate who came here to try to unite what until that moment was divided. We tried to meet in the mountains. Carlos Fonseca Amador was in the mountains. We made an effort to make contacts the mountains. Comrades fell. Eduardo Contreras, who was with me in Managua, was murdered by the National Guard. Carlos died that same day in the mountains.

The struggle took its path. I said: Let's work and fight instead of arguing. Let's take the initiative, because this will unite the Sandinists. The October offensive brought a political position.

This political proposal did not originate in my mind at this critical time, but was discussed in Havana late in 1975 when I was released from prison and went to Cuba. Carlos Fonseca and Humberto Ortega were already there. Three other members of the directorate also arrived: Jose Benito Escobar, Eduardo Contreras, and myself. The five of us met in Havana and debated what could be done in Nicaragua to unite the people and advance when the people's revolutionary struggles in Latin America appeared to be difficult, limited, and even sectarian. We agreed it was necessary not only to change the method of struggle and think about the guerrillas climbing down from the mountains to free the cities, but also to arouse the people in the cities. We agreed that this was possible. We also said it was important to apply a flexible policy of unity to attract the largest number of sectors. This resulted in the proposal for a revolutionary government that would advocate a mixed economy and a multipartisan and nonaligned regime.

In this way the front was gradually reinforced and reunified in such a way that we had become a single front by the time of victory, when we dealt the final blow to the Somozist dictatorship and the imperialist domination. After the victory, we said—and we meant it—that we would construct a new and different model in Nicaragua. We said that we could not be like Cuba, despite the respect and admiration we feel for Cuba, nor could we be like the Eastern countries, despite our admiration and respect for the processes in those countries. We could not be like the typical bourgeois democracies we have seen in Latin America. We said we had to be something new. We had to be a democracy in accordance with our reality.

When we held the 1984 elections, we were not playing. These elections were real. If the National Coordinating Board did not participate, it was because, at the time, the Yankees were bent on destroying the revolution by military means. The board's people refused to participate in the elections because this amounted to accepting the legitimacy of the revolution, although it was possible

for the board to battle the front or win the elections. They disregarded this and decided on the contras and the military means.

I remember that some companeros at the time still thought we were not true revolutionaries. These were companeros who had gone to study in Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union, or Cuba. Although the party directorates of these countries respected and backed the process that the Sandinist directorate had been sponsoring, the boys and girls in the intermediate schools were taught that in order to be revolutionaries, plans similar to theirs had to be applied, and that therefore the Sandinist revolution was far from being a true revolution.

True revolutions were the ones that were over there with a single party, with private property abolished, and with a state economic system.

I visited the USSR on many occasions when Comrade Leonid Brezhnev was in power. I also visited other socialist bloc countries. It all looked so peaceful. We even asked ourselves: Why can we not do something like this in Nicaragua? We saw that the people were totally supportive of the party and there was no discontent among the population. We saw that the model was functioning and there was social and economic development. We saw that there were no opposition media and no opposition parties bothering the government. There were no contras, something which we had. However, we said: Nicaragua's reality tells us something else.

Nicaragua's reality also told us that Christianity was a transforming force in Nicaragua's liberation process. Schools in the socialist bloc countries told the children that to be a revolutionary one had to be an atheist. They asked themselves: How is it possible for the Sandinist revolution to have priests in the government? They said: That cannot be a true revolution. How can you have a revolution with priests?

We held the elections in 1984 and continued to defend this model. In the FSLN National Directorate and in our internal discussions, we said the following in the face of the threat of a Yankee intervention: If the Yankees invade us, we will have to continue raising the banner in the struggle against Yankee intervention. It will be the banner of a multipartisan system, of a mixed economy, and of nonalignment. That is the way to walk toward socialism in Nicaragua, and that is the way to implement the revolution in Nicaragua.

To be a revolutionary in Nicaragua was to do exactly what we were doing in overall terms. I am not talking about the mistakes we made, but, in general terms, the proposals and our actions were correctly executed. However, had we imitated the Eastern countries, thinking that we were doing the right thing, we would not have been revolutionaries.

I believe that one mistake we made was our failure to understand even further the political-economic model

we have defended here in Nicaragua. We failed to understand the Front as a vanguard party in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship, in the defense of the revolution, and in the construction of a democratic system in Nicaragua—a democracy that never existed before. I am not talking about a bourgeois democracy. I am talking about a democracy that has the people's support and that is anti-imperialist and nationalist.

The FSLN, as a guide and as the people's defender, is one thing, but the FSLN as a party during elections is something else.

The FSLN fosters, promotes, and develops democracy in Nicaragua, precisely so that the people can have options. We know that the ideas are there, even if we attempt to stifle them. The different ideological and antagonistic proposals are there permanently in the minds of men and society. You know that very well. You can try to stifle ideas, but they are there and will emerge suddenly. Then what is the purpose of a multiparty system? To have those ideas expressed, to have them expressed through the media, and to have them expressed through the political parties that they may want to organize. What is the purpose of periodic elections? So that the people can decide periodically who will govern them. The FSLN as a party has the challenge to seek the people's vote. The FSLN, as the vanguard, conductor, and promoter of democracy, had to become another party at the time of elections precisely to defend that democracy.

The people in 1984 had seven options. From the moment that they had seven options, we were telling the people: Here you have seven options. Each option says I am the best option; I have this proposal. We were telling the people they had the right to think and later decide for whom they would vote.

In these elections of 1990 we had 10 options. The weakness of these elections, as regards balance, equity, and liberty for the people to express themselves freely, was the war, but there was no other alternative. At the last minute, we had to test the conscience of the people in the face of the fatigue imposed by the war and by the terrorism of the U.S. policy, which not only cost lives, but destroyed the Nicaraguan economy.

The FSLN had a task regarding the people's awareness, just as imperialism did. We had to test our strength under conditions that were disadvantageous for the FSLN as a party. We had to take that risk. If we had not taken that risk in testing our strength, what support would the FSLN have had on 25 February 1990? Then the electoral result was 40.8 percent for the FSLN, 54.7 for the other option. I say the other option, because here the people really chose between two peace options. One was peace with dignity and anti-imperialist sovereignty.

Imperialism persists in Latin America, and we are a point of defense in the Latin American struggle against imperialism. We continue to be so, even after the electoral results, and more so, I would say, after the electoral results. In the 25 February elections it was said that the

people voted for options. There were two options. What were they? One was the FSLN. The other one was the option with the support of the U.S. President.

We were testing the people's consciences. Without the people's consciences, we could not say they distributed U.S. dollars. The people were also testing their own consciences. A man who sells his vote for \$2 is also testing his conscience. This simply does not reveal the reality of the level of conscientiousness reached by the Nicaraguan people under such difficult, harsh, and tragic conditions.

Both the FSLN and the U.S. alternative offered peace and economic improvement. While 40.8 percent of the people voted for us, 57.4 percent voted for the others. The majority voted for the others because they thought, pragmatically, that it was better to seek peace through these gentlemen supported by the U.S. President than through the Sandinists who are not backed by the United States. They thought: Surely the United States will continue the war, the embargo, and everything else. Therefore, all that the Sandinists are promising will not be true and will not be fulfilled. The other alternative is more likely to be fulfilled because the U.S. President is backing it.

This is the reality, regardless of our will. The majority clearly voted for the other alternative. The election results do not have to traumatize or weaken us. If we think that a revolution was waged in Nicaragua, that a multipartisan proposal was presented in this revolution, and that periodic elections with various parties were to be held so the FSLN could always be elected, we would show we do not understand the true proposal made by the Sandinist revolution. As soon as the FSLN—after achieving democracy in Nicaragua with the people's support—ceases to be the vanguard force and puts itself in a party nearer to the people with six or eight more parties in 1984 and a political organization in 1990, the FSLN is telling the people: Here are 10 alternatives in 1990. You have the right to choose any of these alternatives. Each of these alternatives fought the others and told the people: We are the best.

The elections strike at the FSLN as a party, but not at the revolution as a process. The revolution is not something done and concluded in a single day. The revolution is a fact every moment. Anyone who thinks the revolution will end when a new government takes over and a single party is installed, which is to govern all the time at all costs, is mistaken. Why has the Nicaraguan revolutionary process become stronger? Precisely because the process has been tested to the maximum. This test is taking place through what appears to be a defeat of the FSLN. Of course, we would have been happy had the FSLN triumphed in these elections. We could not say otherwise.

We are not going to say now that we are happy because we lost the election. That is not the case. We simply want to carefully analyze this situation. Had the FSLN won

the elections, the opposition would have said there was a fraud. The opposition would have said that the FSLN was not ready to turn power over to them. There was always doubt about this.

However, even though we fought to win the elections, we lost them. The FSLN lost the elections, but the FSLN, as the vanguard of this revolutionary process, strengthened the revolutionary process, and today the Nicaraguan revolutionary process is stronger than prior to 25 February. It is stronger now. It is not as if Pinochet won and there was a military coup. The counterrevolution did not win here. The armed counterrevolution that has been killing the people is not coming to our cities.

This electoral process has taken place within the framework of the constitution, which clearly establishes the gains of this revolutionary process. The revolution is a guarantee for the new democracy we are building in Nicaragua. There is also an important element in this democratic process. It is the role of the army.

I was telling my friends in Chile and Brazil that in Nicaragua democracy is guaranteed as long as there is a people and a constitution, and as long as there is an armed forces that will never threaten any government with a military coup. No other Latin American government can say that. They are all facing the threat of a military coup. How many military coups have there been in Latin America?

The Chilean democracy itself was always described as a very good democracy, but what happened when it was put to the test? When Salvador Allende came to power, he was overthrown by a military coup. Now there is a small democratic opening in Chile. The Chilean people will have to fight a lot to strengthen their democracy, but as long as the Latin American armies are not democratized, these elections that are taking place in Latin America will soon become very weak electoral processes.

In Nicaragua we have an army that will not stage a military coup. Therefore, the government in power can rule the country at ease and may implement its plans. The army will never fire its guns against the people, workers, students, professionals, or teachers. That is not going to happen in Nicaragua.

However, in other Latin American countries, if a professional or if a teacher wants to protest, he will have to think about it many times, because he knows that tanks and soldiers can be sent to the streets to fire their weapons against him.

It so happens that there have been no wars among Latin American countries for many years, but they continuously purchase more and more weapons. What are they for? We always see tanks and soldiers in the streets, and who are they chasing? A foreign army? They are chasing workers, they are attacking workers, and they are firing their guns against the people or staging military coups.

The democratic model we have been building here in Nicaragua is something that has no precedence. It is something new in our Latin American reality. Reporters have insisted on asking me: What influence has perestroika had on Nicaragua? I have told them that it has had no influence. I tell them: You better ask what influence Nicaragua has had on perestroika. They should ask that question, because here in Nicaragua no one was talking about perestroika [applause] when we already had a mixed economy, a multipartisan system, and all of these things. We had all of these things under disadvantageous conditions because the Yankee aggression was on top of us.

The question we must ask is this one: Are we aware of the type of democratic, popular, revolutionary, and anti-imperialist model we Nicaraguans have been defending since 19 July 1979 with great effort and sacrifice? If we are aware of that, it means the real danger of losing the elections was present. Of course, the electoral defeat is considered by some to be the defeat of the revolution. This means they have not really understood the meaning of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Eastern European countries with party structures that seemed strong, solid, and stable have collapsed. They had strong armies, interior ministries, and police forces. However, they have resoundingly collapsed. Many of these parties have disappeared.

In some of these countries, when election time comes, these parties have fallen behind as a third, fourth, or fifth force. However, in Nicaragua, following these elections, the FSLN remains the major political force in the country, among so many parties.

We are the largest party. We are not lying or exaggerating. We are the party of the majority, and the best with 40.8 percent of the votes. The people who voted for the FSLN knew they were voting for the option of dignity and sovereignty and against imperialism, the option that demanded sacrifice and entailed more risks, and a great number of the population demonstrated a high level of awareness. When we speak of 40.8 percent of the Nicaraguan people voting for the FSLN, we are speaking of 40.8 percent of Nicaraguans with a high level of awareness and willingness to gamble on the slogan "Free Homeland or Death."

Consequently, we cannot doubt [applause] the meaning of 44 percent of the votes in the country's Pacific zone. In this area, 44 percent of the Nicaraguans living on the Pacific seaboard voted for the FSLN. What does this mean? It means that ours is the strongest and largest party. Quantitatively speaking, we represent more than the 54.7 percent of the people who voted for the other alternative. Many of those people were with us, but because of the difficult situation, the war, and the sacrifice demanded—not everybody has the same strength and we cannot demand it from them, we must understand this—they were forced to vote for the other alternative.

Therefore, the FSLN is still the largest and strongest party in Nicaragua. What has been an electoral defeat for the FSLN must also be understood as a victory of the revolutionary process and a reaffirmation of the fact that the FSLN continues to be the largest and strongest party in Nicaragua. This coalition of 14 political parties, which was joined by LA PRENSA newspaper—a force that was not part of any of the parties and was also joined by President Bush, which makes for even more strength—was purely circumstantial.

The new government has a commitment to the people as of 25 April. They have said they will govern better than we did and that it will be easier. I am preparing a report describing what we Sandinists received on 19 July 1979 and what we will hand over to the new government on 25 April 1990. [applause] This report, which I will present on 23 or 24 April, will be our Bible.

If we are handing over a country with one million students in the primary and secondary schools and the university, as well as in the adult literacy program, some of whom are getting tickets for free travel, along with the teachers, we must ensure that this program does not go backward. If they want to take one teacher away from us, it means they are not making good their word. If they want to close one school, they will not be fulfilling their promises. If they want to eliminate the AFA [Rice, Beans and Sugar Package] and the tickets, they will not be making good their promises. They said they would do it better than we did. To do it better than we did means that they will have to end this year with more students and teachers, and with better material conditions for students and teachers than those existing at present.

Something similar will have to happen in the fields of health and business. They said they will do everything better. But if they butcher the businesses and hurl the workers to the street, the workers will have to do something. We will be there with them. All of us will tell the government: Wait a minute, you said you will do it better, but you have dismembered the enterprises and dismissed the workers instead. You said that in 90 days the country would have full employment, the economic situation would be resolved, and that everything would be much better because the Sandinists did everything poorly.

They never recognized any of the things we did. They started to give some recognition after the elections. We said that we would respect their victory because this is a matter of principle, regardless of why the people voted for them. We must respect the people's will. They never admitted that the revolution did anything right. They criticized everything and said that everything was wrong. When we made international negotiations for the country's economy and the good of all Nicaraguans, they sabotaged these negotiations. We will not do this. We will not do as they did. Instead, we have said that Nicaragua needs resources and we have to seek them.

They sent a delegation to the United States and Japan to seek loans. I immediately backed these efforts. Also, when I went to Santiago via Caracas and talked with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during our flight, I told him the Nicaraguan economic situation is very difficult and that the new government will face serious economic problems, although they said they will solve them. I told Gonzalez we need Spain to give a hand to Nicaragua. Gonzalez told me he would convene the Council of Ministers as soon as he returned to Spain to approve this aid for Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, in the United States, President Bush requested \$500 million for Panama after it forced the Panamanian Government to go to a church and fast because no aid was reaching the country after U.S. troops had arrived in Panama.

President George Bush asked Congress for \$500 million for Panama and \$300 million for Nicaragua, and the discussions began. Of the \$300 million that were requested for Nicaragua, they are saying \$50 million will be used to pay the foreign debt and \$30 million will be used for the relocation of the contras, who may be willing to return to Nicaragua and want to work here.

The discussions began, but what is today's reality? Our reality is the following: Despite being committed to the financing of the Panamanian and Nicaraguan economies because of the damage caused to both, a debate has taken place in the U.S. Congress and now they are talking about approving a \$300-million package to be distributed between Panama and Nicaragua. What about the other \$500 million? They say it will be sent to Eastern Europe. With their imperialist mentality, like the eagle using its claws, they really do not want to help the Eastern European countries, but instead they want to exert influence in those countries and dominate them. That is what the United States wants.

It is not a matter of generosity. The imperialists are making political calculations. They say: These little countries, Panama and Nicaragua, will be satisfied with a little. They say \$300 million will be distributed among Panama and Nicaragua. The Panamanian vice president runs to the United States to protest and to demand that Panama should be given its \$500 million. He said that if \$300 million will be given to these countries, Panama should receive all of it, and so the discussions continue.

That is the reality of the United States. It is the most powerful nation on earth. It is economically the richest country in the world, but they refuse to provide financing to countries they have hurt greatly.

Nicaragua needs at least \$1 billion per year to heal the wounds of the war imposed on us by the United States. Look at the differences. We do not know how the debates will conclude, and we want them to approve \$300 million for Nicaragua because it benefits all Nicaraguan people. But the Panamanians should also get their \$500 million because it benefits the Panamanian people. While the debates are being held in the United States, in

which they are talking about \$300 million to be distributed between Panama and Nicaragua, today the Spanish Government, headed by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, approved over \$41 million in aid for Nicaragua. [applause] There are differences between the two governments.

We have also asked for special treatment for Nicaragua from the Italian Government, with which we have had good relations and which is now headed by Prime Minister Andreotti. I met with Mr. Andreotti in Chile, and he said he would give special treatment to Nicaragua. We have seen positive attitudes from European countries which may not have the economic resources the United States has, but they also do not haggle over the aid like the United States does.

In the days that remain before 25 April, I will continue to ask for more aid, because I know that the aid will benefit the Nicaraguan people.

I will not do as they did. They sabotaged the aid that we negotiated. After all, this aid benefited all of the Nicaraguan people, including the sectors that voted for them. We cannot do as they did. They are taking over the government on 25 April and have a great responsibility. They promised to do everything better. Between now and 23 or 24 April, we could resolve many of the problems you have presented to us, but we cannot resolve all of the problems. We must consider the following fact. The government we will have in Nicaragua as of 25 April must meet the demands of all of the Nicaraguans, not of a single party. The new government will handle resources that belong to all of the Nicaraguans and not to a single family. Therefore, all of the technicians and professionals in this particular case must demand from the government all that you regard as just.

Let us consider the problem of housing. The technicians and professionals are just as entitled to a home as any other Nicaraguan. All will depend on the degree of organization and aggressiveness of the technicians and professionals and other sectors to wage a struggle so that the new government can implement housing programs. After all, they have said they will fill Nicaragua with homes. So they must make good their promise and provide homes for the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

We have discussed war here. We have been struggling all these years to end the war. We said that war had to disappear after the elections. A meeting with the contra leaders was held yesterday at Toncontin Airport, Honduras. Cardinal Obando y Bravo headed the delegation that met with the contras.

In essence, the contras say this: After discussing the elections as a landmark event in our history, we hereby flatly declare that we have decided to initiate the general demobilization of our forces, starting with those still in Honduras, no later than 20 April. For this, we are requesting the cooperation and assistance of international organizations such as ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and CIAV [International

Commission for Support and Verification], as well as His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Simultaneously, military confrontations in Nicaragua must cease. To achieve this, there must be an effective cease-fire and the contra forces currently in Nicaragua must rally in previously delimited security zones supervised by international organizations so they can be disarmed and demobilized.

This agreement commits the contras to disarmament and demobilization. This is extremely important. We Nicaraguans have fought so hard for this. If this is implemented, it will be a victory won by the Nicaraguan people. For the time being, this is an accord and a promise. All we Nicaraguans must struggle so this accord will be complied with. We have achieved a consensus, a convergence between the current Nicaraguan Government, the future government, the United States in its statements, and the contras, now that they have agreed to disarm. We must defend this agreement.

At approximately 1600 yesterday, and while this agreement was being signed, the contras, violating the unilateral cease-fire declared by the Nicaraguan Government, launched an attack against companeros aboard a truck in La Pavona, Yali, killing two people, including a nine-year-old child, and wounding nine. While the agreement was being signed in Toncontin, blood was being shed in Nicaragua. But there is an agreement today. We will see if blood continues to run in Nicaragua. We must work so this agreement can be respected and so blood can stop the flow of blood in Nicaragua.

We must be alert because a man named Franklin was not present at this meeting in Honduras and consequently did not sign the agreement. I told Cardinal Obando y Bravo and the commission members that I regarded this fact as suspicious. I had no doubt that Franklin failed to arrive at the meeting to avoid making a commitment in this accord. I also said I thought Franklin is waiting for the reactions of the contra rank and file in Nicaragua. If they accept the agreement, he will be alone and will think twice before continuing the war against the Nicaraguan people with a few contras. If they reject this agreement, he will show up at the head of the contras.

Regardless of what Franklin thinks or what the contras in Nicaragua think, we must tell them that there is a clear agreement among all Nicaraguans that they should leave us alone so the war against the Nicaraguan people can end. We must defend this very important accord, which opens up the possibility of eliminating the war and achieving peace.

We will broach the economic aspect at another opportunity. Together with the economic aspect, we will broach other topics of the party. We must work on that. These are points we must broach on another occasion, because each one of the topics must be developed a lot. It is good that we have heard the concerns, reflections, proposals, and ideas that have been expressed, and we must work on them. In this new situation which will begin on 25

April, we must continue to work with the same optimism and with the same confidence. We are in a better condition than before 19 July. Politically we have a strength that we have not lost. It is true, we lost the government and an important quota of power, but we continue to be a power of the people. We continue to be the largest party. We have enough strength to continue to defend our revolutionary achievements.

Just as we are meeting here today in this Olof Palme Convention Center, after 25 April we will continue to meet at the university, underneath the trees, anywhere. When we have some resources, we will also meet here. This is a public center, not an exclusive center. This is a center that is oriented to anyone who wishes to use it. We are a real force that has to be considered. By whom? By the new government. They have to consider us as a real force.

It is not a case where the FSLN will cease to exist after 25 April. On the contrary. I think that the FSLN will make itself felt much more after 25 April, because it is more comfortable to be in the opposition. Although we are not going to be a destructive opposition, we will be a belligerent opposition and will support what is good. We would be crazy if we did not support what is good. But we are going to criticize what is bad. Therefore, I believe that the front will make itself felt a lot; that is, if they want to do all the bad things the media say they are going to do. Some people say that after 25 April they will do a lot of bad things. If that is so, the FSLN is going to be felt as never before. If that is not so, they will have a belligerent opposition which will defend the people's interests, the interests of the technicians and professionals, and the revolutionary achievements. From the rank and file, we will meet with the technicians and professionals. We will meet wherever it is necessary to meet. We will demonstrate whenever it is necessary to demonstrate in the streets, plazas, or anywhere. The Sandinist leaders will be there with you, brothers, waging new battles and struggles and achieving new victories. Free the fatherland. [Crowd responds: "Or death"]

Obando, Ortega News Conference

PA2403025990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
0117 GMT 24 Mar 90

[News conference by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and President Daniel Ortega Saavedra with unidentified reporters in the Protocol Room of the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Cardinal Miquel Obando y Bravo, why does the communique make no reference to the kidnapped people?

[Obando y Bravo] The communique makes no reference to kidnapped people, but at all the meetings we attended, the topic was always broached. Today, we discussed it twice. It is not in the communique to Borge, but we did discuss it. I asked these gentlemen—we always ask them the same question—we want to ask you if you have

people detained here, because you should set them free so as to contribute toward the country's reconciliation. They gave us their usual reply that they are not holding anyone and that the Red Cross is helping out. In fact, they sometimes said that there is confusion—they told us the case of a girl; I think her name was Marta Chamorro—it was thought that she was kidnapped, and all the while she was a secretary with the National Resistance [RN]. The name of a young man named Carlos was also mentioned—he is a member of the RN. Therefore, I am repeating what they have said. This question is always posed to them at all our meetings—in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, here at Camino Real, at Sapoa, and today at Tegucigalpa.

[Ortega] As president of Nicaragua, I fully support this agreement and feel that this points Nicaraguans toward peace by eliminating the war that has caused the Nicaraguan people so much harm and suffering. I was telling His Eminence Cardinal Obando y Bravo and Mr. Antonio Lacayo that I am going to immediately instruct the Foreign Ministry and also the defense minister to take the corresponding steps so that, in keeping with the letter of this agreement, and by 25 April if possible, we will not have a single armed contra in Nicaragua. By then they should have been disarmed and demobilized. By 25 April, we should be at peace, in other words without war, and be able to face the serious economic and social problems that all Nicaraguans must face.

[Reporter] President Ortega, does this also mean that you assume there is no longer a danger of a contra invasion and therefore you will disarm and collect the 100,000 rifles that are in the hands of the people, according to what Commander Wheelock said?

[Ortega] We must state the following: We are basing ourselves on this agreement being complied with, and we must struggle for it to be complied with. That is an obligation of all Nicaraguans. Here we all agree, all Nicaraguans—no matter what their political and ideological persuasion—that we want peace, that we want the war to end, and that we want the contras to be disarmed and demobilized by 25 April, at the latest. If we manage this, then there is no reason for many peasants who are armed in cooperatives within the war area and so on to have these weapons, because they will no longer be threatened by contra activities. We must struggle for this. It is true that there is much tension in the war areas, that there are battles and clashes, but we must also wait for this agreement to be accepted and respected by all contra members within Nicaraguan territory. This will save the Nicaraguan people from a bloodbath.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the mothers of heroes and martyrs are worried about these events.

[Ortega] We have explained to them that the issue has been discussed and that we have insisted and will continue to insist on working through international organizations, bearing in mind that now ONUCA [UN

Observer Group in Central America] and other international organizations have entered the picture. They will seek the mechanisms for the release of the kidnapped people.

[Reporter] How will you delimit the zone where they will stay?

[Ortega] The first thing....[changes thought] I believe that ONUCA already has a base in Nicaragua, so it will have to be expanded. We will need the blue helmets' [UN forces] help for this work. President Carlos Andres Perez told me that he is willing to send a battalion that was going to go to Namibia but never went. He said that the battalion could become part of the blue helmet's contingent.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez also stated his willingness to cooperate in this concern. Canada has also stated its willingness to cooperate. In other words, we have several countries who could cooperate to quickly comprise the blue helmets's contingent, and, in agreement with the Sandinist People's Army and the irregular forces, this would result in the delimitation of this area of concentration. Then they would proceed to disarm and demobilize the forces.

[Reporter] Do you believe that this agreement will put an end to the fighting?

[Ortega] That is our hope. We do not doubt that there will always be people who want to continue the war, but we have to strive for the agreement to be implemented.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what will be the role of the Sandinist People's Army and the Interior Ministry in this process?

[Ortega] They will cooperate so that the agreement is implemented.

[Reporter] How many armed contras are there in the country?

[Ortega] There could be 4,000-6,000 contras, but they have been infiltrating larger numbers from Honduran territory with the intention of launching a large-scale offensive as we approach 25 April. The contra plans that we know about indicate that they will launch a large-scale offensive. Therefore, this agreement must kill those plans, because they would simply bring more bloodshed to the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] There is an incongruence here. Dr. Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, a member of the delegation, has just told us that the contras have shown no intention of carrying out that invasion. How do you justify this?

[Ortega] It is logical. The fact that they have signed the agreement indicates that they are not willing to launch an offensive. I have told you what has been taking place in the country. The clashes have increased, the penetration of counterrevolutionary forces from Honduran territory into Nicaragua has increased, and their plans point toward a large-scale offensive as we approach 25

April. Now that the agreement has been signed, we must strive to implement it. I am concerned, because the man known as Franklin did not participate in the meetings; therefore, he did not sign the agreement. However, I am sure that—even though there are people who want to encourage the rank and file to continue the war—the agreement will have to be respected, because it is an agreement based on a national consensus. This national consensus must end the war and bring peace to Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Mr. President, now that the agreement has been reached, is it appropriate to hold the Central American summit in Managua in a few days?

[Ortega] Of course, because the summit would be held precisely when the agreement was being tested. The summit is important to bolster the agreement's implementation. Thank you.

Ortega Speech on Agreement, Status of FSLN

*PA2403051390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
0226 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega to students on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the literacy campaign at the La Pinata Recreation Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando. He has informed me about the agreement that was signed at the Toncontin Airport—the meetings were held there. I will read to you the most important part of the agreement.

I will read to you the part where the contra representatives express their position in this agreement: called the Toncontin Agreement. It states: This historic event—in reference to the elections—makes it possible for us to declare that we have begun the general process for the general demobilization of our forces beginning with the disarmament of those who still remain in the Republic of Honduras, no later than 20 April. [crowd cheers]

I want to explain the following to you. The information we have is that the contras have been implementing plans to launch a great offensive prior to 25 April. To accomplish this, the contras have been massively infiltrating from Honduras, and they have especially threatened the peasant population living deep inside the mountains.

According to their plans, the contras have decided to attack the towns in the 5th and 6th regions. They think that just because the majority of the Nicaraguan people—54.7 percent—voted against the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], this means they have voted for the war. They are wrong because the majority of the people who voted against the FSLN did it because they thought they could achieve peace easier by voting for the opposition than by voting for the FSLN.

No one voted for war in Nicaragua. Many people voted for the opposition simply because the opposition has

been talking against the Patriotic Military Service. If someone does not want their son to go to war, they cannot vote for war. That is why the contras are wrong if they think that people voted for war or if they think the people voted to end the revolution or the FSLN.

First, the revolution cannot end because the revolution came to Nicaragua on 19 July 1979 and it cannot be defeated.

Thanks to the revolution we have held elections twice. Thanks to the revolution we will have a new government in Nicaragua. Had there been no revolution, had there been no elections—something the Sandinists have always supported—those who will soon be in power could have never thought of leading the country. Why? Because the revolution has achieved democracy for Nicaragua.

The contra plans had included the defeat of the revolution. Now, we have this agreement. We have to defend this agreement. I told Cardinal Obando that I had noticed that [contra commander] Franklin did not sign the agreement. Franklin is one of the most well-known contra leaders.

Franklin did not participate in the meeting. I told Obando y Bravo that this man will surely wait for the peace agreement on the contra demobilization and disarmament to be announced. He will wait and see how the contra rank and file react to this. If the contra rank and file say they reject this agreement, then Franklin will step out in front of these warmongering individuals to continue the war.

However, the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people will be here and will be willing to put an end to the contras. We will also step to the front to finish off the contras.

We also hope the new government is willing to prevent the contras from carrying out their actions. We must remember that the new government promised to end the war. To end the war, we must finish off the contras. Therefore...[crowd shouts indistinct slogans] We must see to it that the contras fulfill the agreements they signed in Honduras, so that the contras disarm themselves, and so that the contras demobilize themselves.

I have already held talks with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega as well as with the Foreign Ministry so that the proper steps are taken so that the United Nations, through ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central], participates in this process.

Internally, the idea is the following: The contras will gather in groups in certain parts of the country. The ONUCA forces will arrive and surround them. Later on they will turn over their weapons and begin to demobilize. We have to defend this agreement; we must not allow them to resume the war. We cannot allow them to step up the war against the Nicaraguan people. We have

to defend the agreement signed by the contras in Honduras so that peace is achieved in Nicaragua and so that no more Nicaraguans are killed.

There is no problem. We will insist on the release of the kidnapped people. We Nicaraguans must feel proud and happy about this agreement signed in Toncontin because it is a victory for peace. The contras who refuse to disarm themselves will be internally and internationally isolated. No one will support them.

Today we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the literacy campaign. It was accomplished with the blood of Nicaraguan youths. It was accomplished with the soul of Nicaraguan youths. The literacy campaign was accomplished with the discipline, with the pride, and with the spirit of the Nicaraguan youth.

In that same way, we Nicaraguans, the Sandinists, and the Nicaraguan youth must fulfill the duties that lie ahead, which are the duties of peace, democracy, justice, and freedom.

Up until 25 April 1990, and as an opposition group after that date, the Sandinists will be there defending the revolution. The Sandinists will be there defending the people's interests. The Sandinists will be there defending peace, sovereignty, and democracy, which the Nicaraguan people have won.

We will be with the people. We will be with the youth. The Sandinist leaders will be there to raise the banners of Sandino, of Nicaragua, of new struggles, of new victories, and of new challenges that are constantly imposed on the revolution, on the Sandinists, and on the Nicaraguan people.

Long live Nicaraguan youths! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the Nicaraguan people! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] We won! we won! we won! Everything will be better! [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans] Free fatherland! [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"] Long live Sandino! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Ortega Says Summit 'Might' Be Held 1-2 April

PA2303213290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1950 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] After meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo for over an hour on 22 March, President Daniel Ortega stated that the next summit of Central American presidents in Nicaragua might be held on 1-2 April.

Ortega said that Nicaragua is working to set the date for the meeting because the date previously established coincided with commitments already made by some of the Central American presidents, whose names he did not specify. The date initially proposed for the summit was 30-31 March.

Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas will begin a two-day tour of the Central American countries on 24 March to discuss details of the meeting. The central topic

of the meeting will be the demobilization of the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries.

Ortega met yesterday afternoon with Cardinal Obando y Bravo to discuss the disarmament and repatriation of members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who are in Honduran territory. Obando y Bravo heads a delegation that also includes Antonio Lacayo, Jaime Cuadra, and Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, advisers of president-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. The delegation travelled to Tegucigalpa today to meet with military leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance.

In statements to the local and foreign press, Ortega said his government, representatives of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and the international community agree that a minimum of stability is necessary to face the socioeconomic problems in Nicaragua. To achieve such stability, he added, it is essential that the anti-Sandinists be demobilized by 25 April, when the National Opposition Union government takes office. The president said that the current authorities will offer the counterrevolutionary troops every facility for their resettlement in Nicaraguan territory, as has been granted to the thousands of contras who have laid down their weapons and the former Somozist guardsmen who have been released by the Sandinist government.

Contras Kill 15 Sandinists in Ambush

*PA2403183690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1728 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Managua, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Fifteen Sandinist soldiers were killed and eight more were wounded in an ambush by the contras on 23 March, the same day a rebel delegation signed an agreement in Tegucigalpa to demobilize and disarm their forces by 25 April [as received] "at the latest."

According to Managua Radio Sandino today, three vehicles of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) were suddenly attacked in the area of Esteli, approximately 160 kms north of Managua.

Quoting official sources, the radio station reported some EPS officers were among the dead. The station noted that rebel attacks have increased following the defeat of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in the Nicaraguan general elections held on 25 February.

Radio Sandino reported that the ambush took place on the same day that the contra leaders in Tegucigalpa committed themselves, along with a delegation of President-elect Violeta Chamorro, to disarming and demobilizing their forces in Honduran territory.

The agreement—that outgoing Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega welcomed and supported on 23 March—was signed by Chamorro's representative Antonio Lacayo and rebel Commander Oscar Sovalbarro ("Ruben"). Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo signed as a witness and guarantor.

Contras Reportedly Ready To Surrender Weapons

*PA2503194190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1808 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] told ACAN-EFE today that the contra fighters are ready at their camps in Yamales, Honduras, to turn in their weapons to the United Nations "tomorrow."

Pepe Matus, adviser to the Nicaraguan rebels has said that beginning 21 April all contra fighters in Honduran territory must be disarmed and demobilized. He added, "if tomorrow, ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America] itself and CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] begin asking us for our rifles, we will begin turning them in."

He added that the fighters will be ready tomorrow but if any delay occurs, it will not be our responsibility but a problem for ONUCA or CIAV.

According to the agreement signed on 23 March by the contras and representatives of the Nicaraguan president-elect, Violeta Chamorro, the demobilization and disarmament of the rebels in Honduran territory will begin "20 April at the latest."

Matus noted, however, that "the deadline for the fighters in Yamales (eastern Honduras) expires on 20 April" and that those in Nicaragua "will be sent with their weapons to enclaves to be determined by ONUCA and CIAV."

Matus said that in order to guarantee the cease-fire in Nicaragua, the Sandinists and the contras will have "to be in their garrisons with their weapons and in the security zones (enclaves)."

"In Honduras, however, after 20 April there will not be a single armed fighter. As of 21 April we will be taking instructions from the ONUCA and the new Nicaraguan Government," Matus reiterated.

The RN's hierarchy expects to meet with ONUCA officials by midweek to coordinate the task of disarming approximately 8,000 rebels with the help of Venezuelan Army troops.

ONUCA is only awaiting instructions from the UN Security Council to initiate the anti-Sandinists' disarming and demobilization.

Oscar Sovalbarro, better known as Commander "Ruben," chief of the RN's negotiating commission, is in Yamales today explaining to the troops the scope of the "Toncontin Agreement," which was signed in Tegucigalpa in the presence of Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who served as a witness and guarantor.

Anti-Sandinist Groups Vie To Head Peace Talks

PA2303235790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1936 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A high-level Nicaraguan mission today began direct negotiations with an anti-Sandinist movement refuged in Honduras that appears to be disorganized and divided at a time of demobilization.

The division is reflected in the agenda prepared for the Nicaraguan commission, which excludes Sandinist delegates, and is headed by Antonio Lacayo, advisor to President-elect Violeta Chamorro, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

The negotiators are scheduled to meet separately with anti-Sandinist combatants of the Northern Front, the Miskito Indian military organization (Yatama), and the Southern Front.

In addition, they are expected to present their own demands to the Commission for Rights of Nicaraguan Exiles [Comision Pro Derechos de los Exiliados Nicaraguenses] and the Democratic Front for Nicaraguan Unity [Frente de la Unidad Nicaraguense Democrata] in exile.

Their common denominator is their anti-Sandinism, but they are all vying for economic and political opportunities of their own in the future Chamorro administration, which will take power on 25 April.

Their demands coincide on such key points as a general amnesty, demilitarization of the anti-Sandinist structures, and guarantees of personal and economic security for the repatriates.

However, discrepancies surface when the time comes to point out who will assume leadership in the negotiation and demobilization process, bringing to the fore the internal conflicts that have arisen among the contras over the past two years.

Beginning in 1988, some of the leaders who had been purged from the contras' ranks managed to create new structures. One of them is Indalecio Rodriguez, a contra founder and currently president of the Commission for Rights of Nicaraguan Exiles.

Rodriguez pointed out in this capital that "thousands upon thousands of Nicaraguans are affected, and all of them demand that their sacrifices be recognized now that we are about to open a new stage in our country."

All in all, there are 8,000 men in the so-called Northern Front; about 400 Indians in Yatama; 21,000 refugees in various camps; and over 100,000 civilians, part of whom are concentrated at the Nicaraguan border and the rest in other places around the country.

Honduran analysts agree that in this broad anti-Sandinist spectrum, the leading negotiating force is the RN, which includes the Northern Front and 30,000 civilians.

An RN spokesman interviewed by ACAN-EFE has said: "We are the ones who have the weapons and who have suffered the most deaths; therefore we have earned the right to lead the negotiations."

Nevertheless, the source admitted: "There is no unanimity among Nicaraguans in Honduras. It did not exist during the war and does not exist now that peace is at hand. What we want is to find more satisfied people than resentful people at the end of this process."

UNO Political Council Proposes Cabinet Nominees

PA2303215190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1751 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Political sources of the National Opposition Union (UNO) reported today that the UNO Political Council has handed to Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro a list of candidates for the new government, which will be inaugurated on 25 April.

This list, which was handed over by vice president-elect Virgilio Godoy last night, joins other lists received by Chamorro from her team of advisers and various private sector organizations.

The Political Council of UNO, a coalition that won the 25 February elections, is the top political decision-making organization of the alliance, but final decisions will be made exclusively by Violeta Chamorro.

For the Foreign Ministry, the council proposes Emilio Alvarez Montalvan and Alfonso Robelo Callejas, former member of the contra directorate.

According to political sources close to Violeta Chamorro, it is sure that Alvarez will become the new foreign minister, while Robelo will become ambassador to Washington.

For the Agricultural Development Ministry, the coalition of 14 parties suggests the names of Nicolas Bolanos Geyer, Adolfo Evert Velez, and Ernest Balladares Teran.

The Political Council plans to change the name of the Interior Ministry to the Government Ministry and proposes the names of Alberto Saborio Morales, Oscar Herdocia Lacayo, and Mario Borgen Blandon.

For the Economy, Industries, and Commerce Ministry, the politicians propose Leon Ruiz Amador and Mario Rappaccioli; for the Construction and Transport Ministry, Pedro Cuadra Arguello; for the Education and Culture Ministry, Andres Zuniga, Adela Castillo, Ana Maria Aguirre Gomez, and Julio Icaza Tijerino; for the Health Ministry, Leopoldo Navarro, Carlos Quinonez, and Rene Sandino Arguello; for the Labor Ministry, the

candidates are Francisco Rosales, Wilfredo Navarro, and Ivan Escobar; for the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Cooperation, Noel Vidaurre; for the Finance Ministry, Guillermo Potoy, Adan Fletes, Jose Ernesto Somarriba, and Mario Alegria; and for the Defense Ministry, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, son and political adviser to Violeta Chamorro.

The council also proposes the creation of two new ministries—one in charge of the development of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast and another for the promotion of family. For the latter, the UNO Political Council proposes the names of Digna Zamora, Aurora Blandon de Borge, and Francis Blandon Somarriba. It proposes no candidate for the Atlantic Coast development post.

For the Agrarian Reform Ministry, which according to UNO's plan would cease to be a ministry, but become an institute, it proposes William Galo, Luis Medenia Bravo, Ariel Lopez Lopez, and Armodio Mendieta.

For the Sports Ministry, which would become the National Sports Institute, it proposes Humberto Dona Delgado, Miguel Angel Babosa, and Maria Adilia Padilla.

Chamorro Economic Adviser Meets Businessmen

*PA2603154990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] You must stop fighting for your properties that are now in the hands of other people since that would not contribute to the country's stability, Panchito Mayorga, Violeta Barrios' economic adviser has told a group of 80 businessmen living abroad.

He added: In order to prevent conflicts, you must leave things as they are and stop thinking they are unjust. We cannot practice the policy of an eye for an eye, because we would all end up blind, the strategist of the elected government warned, stressing that it would be like starting a fire.

Now you must seek a concerted position so that we can all participate in the country's reconstruction, Mayorga said. He urged them not to mistrust one another, noting that he sensed this feeling among Violeta Barrios' supporters in Miami, and also among businessmen. Our main problem is a lack of confidence, Mayorga stressed.

Mayorga urged the group of 80 Nicaraguan businessmen residing abroad to invest in our country in order to distribute and share the production with the country's masses. Those are the rules of the game, Panchito said in his speech to a group of businessmen who arrived in Managua 22 March and met at the INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration] precisely to hear the rules of the game presented by Mayorga.

Pannchito also told them: Remember that you were rejected by the people who participated in the 1979 armed insurrection precisely because capital was concentrated in the hands of a minority. People rebelled

because there was excessive power in the hands of a few, Mayorga said. That is not the economic system we want to develop, he stressed.

He continued: I know that many of you blame Jimmy Carter, who was U.S. president at that time, and that others blame the Group of 12. However, that was not the case. People rebelled against the previous system, which concentrated wealth in an elite.

The rules of the game explained by Mayorga are the result of the transformations carried out by the Sandinist National Liberation Front during 10 years of government, which represented the people's interests and will. As Mayorga himself said, the people will rebel if the government headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro does not accept them.

Panama

Ambassador Vallarino on U.S. Aid for Panama

*PA2603130590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
24 Mar 90 p 1A*

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] There is no doubt that the U.S. economic aid will arrive sooner than we expect, although some senators want to "slice the cake differently," Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Eduardo Vallarino has told LA PRENSA.

He said there is the remote possibility that Panama will not receive all that it needs, but that, nevertheless, "we will fare well at the end of the road."

Vallarino, who is in Washington, told LA PRENSA over the telephone that some senators think \$500 million would be an excessive amount for Panama because some East Europe countries also require assistance.

He also said that Panamanian Vice President Guillermo Ford, who has been in the United States since 20 March, explained to the senators why Panama requires this amount and not less. Vallarino added that the majority of the senators understood this.

According to the ambassador, Ford has correctly said that Panama does not want to receive the aid little by little but that the country requires the full amount requested to start the recovery process. Panama does not want to have to request anything else.

Vallarino reported that at a meeting he attended with Ford, U.S. President George Bush, and Vice President Dan Quayle, held the morning of 23 March, Bush reiterated his commitment to the Panamanian people regarding the economic aid.

"The climate is very positive. All of the Panamanian people's expectations will be met," the ambassador said.

He said that Ford has been very persuasive and that he has asked the people to be "patient and have faith because things look good."

Vallarino said there is tremendous sympathy for Panama observed in every U.S. circle and there is willingness to crystalize the aid for Panama as soon as practicable.

Vallarino also said that questions such as whether it would be right for Panama to use \$130 million to pay some overdue obligations to international financial organizations are being discussed in the Senate.

Regarding this question, the ambassador said it is right because in this way Panama will have paved the way for additional loans from these organizations.

The Panamanian ambassador said the Panamanian people should not be pessimistic and that things are just the reverse. "There is no doubt that Panama will soon receive a large amount of money, which could be the full amount we have requested."

According to Vallarino, there is a great desire at all levels of the U.S. legislative branch to aid Panama. He finally said that the delay is not due to any U.S. ill will toward Panama.

Delegation Head Explains Incident in La Paz

PA2403010890 Panama City Circuit RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Alfredo Elhers, head of the the Panamanian legislators' delegation to the Latin American Parliament meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, said today that the incident that took place in that country was premeditated.

[Begin recording] [Elhers] We were formally invited to the meeting, and therefore, this invitation—in fact—recognized the Panamanian parliament. Much to our surprise, early in the afternoon on 19 March, once we were all settled in, the chairman voiced the feelings of the parliament's leadership that questioned the legitimacy of the Panamanian Government and of the Latin American [as heard] Parliament.

Naturally, we condemned such an attitude because, first, no one should question the legitimacy of this government and of the Latin American Parliament. Second, this was a flagrant violation of Article 28, paragraph B of the Latin American Parliament's statutes. Third, we felt this was disrespectful and an abuse of authority of the parliament's leadership.

As a result of this action, the government delegation represented by myself as chairman of the delegation, Honorable Legislator Gisela Chung, and Honorable Legislator Cigarrista, decided to withdraw from the discussions as a protest.

[Reporter] How can you explain that you were sent a formal invitation, and then once in La Paz at the congress, you were rejected?

[Elhers] I believe this was a maneuver planned by certain leftist groups of South American countries attending the meeting. I even believe that there were some ill-intended actions by some officials of the Noriega regime, because we found out there was another alleged Panamanian delegation there that included a Mr. Chandeck, who said he represented the Panamanian people's power.

I think all this was to harm our government and our parliament before the South American community. [end recording]

Commission Formed To Study Constitutional Reform

PA2403010090 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE
in Spanish 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 26

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] A commission created by the Executive Branch will meet this Saturday in the Palace of the Herons to discuss possible reforms to the 1972 Constitution, a parliamentary spokesman has told CRITICA LIBRE.

On 1 March President Guillermo Endara proposed, during his speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly, reforming the Constitution and then calling for a referendum to approve the reforms and his government.

According to the source, the commission is headed by President Endara himself. Its other members are: Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo, Foreign Minister Julio Linares, Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas, and Deputy Juan Antonio Sossa.

The commission will determine what reforms should be made to the Constitution and then draft a bill that would be presented to the Legislative Assembly for its approval.

This bill, according to the source, must be approved in three debates by the legislature, which opens on 1 September and closes on 31 December.

The referendum on the approved reforms must take place not earlier than three months thereafter so that the government can have time to organize the event.

The Constitution was reformed in 1983 when the government presented a reform bill to the Legislative Assembly.

The source noted that for the three months prior to the referendum, the reforms must be broadly discussed by all Panamanian political sectors.

The Public Force and the Social Security Institute are issues on which the commission will place more emphasis in favor of reforms because the country's conditions have changed, the source noted.

Assembly Supports Decision on Expelling Cuban
PA2503013890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 24 Mar 90 p 1A

[Text] The Legislative Assembly's ruling majority issued a resolution yesterday in support of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry decision to expel Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora, referring to the "compromising evidence that links President Fidel Castro to drug trafficking activities involving General Manuel Antonio Noriega."

The resolution passed by the legislators states that the Panamanian Government "had no option but to take forceful measures in response to the aggression of the Cuban dictatorial regime" against Panama and in demand for its "respect of our democracy and sovereignty according to the norms of mutual respect and the self-determination of peoples."

Banking Association Director on Money Laundering
PA2403022590 Panama City Radio KW Continente
in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Report by Maidee del Carmen Saldana]

[Text] Bankers do not consciously lend themselves to money laundering, Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association [ABN] has said, referring to this problem, which involves tax evasion in the United States and drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] [Lasso Valdes] We at the ABN have obviously thoroughly discussed money laundering, not because we consider it a serious problem for the banking center—in the sense that the banking center, comprised of 110 banks, lends itself to money laundering—but because the international press and some local publications continuously say that the Panamanian banking center is being used in money laundering at the world-wide level. Obviously, this is a subject we must discuss in detail and on a regular basis.

We have reached the conclusion that although we are aware that, to some extent, there is money laundering—I say we are aware because money laundering involves different facets that do not necessarily indicate that the banker is aware he is being used in money laundering. Transfers normally received from other banks in other locations and other banking centers are known among bankers as clean money, the term money laundering stems from this operation. The money received, the cash obtained from selling drugs, is taken to a corrupt banker who finds a way to transfer the money, to convert it into a transfer, which is known as the procedure for laundering money. Once the money is transferred—the drug money is sent through a transfer to other banks in other countries—it is laundered or cleaned, as is the current term. Since we had some knowledge about the money laundering process, years ago we established some controls to avoid receiving large amounts of cash, bearing in mind that this was needed to control money laundering.

[Saldana] We would like to know your opinion about the operation of the banking center. We know that during the past regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, people had some distrust of the banking center [words indistinct] about the transfer of the Panamanian banking center. What is the situation with the new government, are people more confident now? What is the outlook for the banking center?

[Lasso] We believe that the banking center can honestly meet normal requirements for withdrawals. I am saying normal withdrawals to express the [bankers] desire to have normal withdrawals and not withdrawals due to panic. Withdrawals as a result of panic take place when people do not even think about what they will do with their savings and only think: I will withdraw my money by all means. I must honestly believe that as long as this attitude prevails, it will be very difficult to lift current restrictions, because if we want to start working in a country with a new government—with a new broad and positive attitude toward the country's future—we must be conscious of the meaning of our savings for the banking system and the country's economy. We are talking about many millions of dollars and what would happen if each of us thinks: Well, I only have \$1,000, another one says I just have \$10,000, I have \$5,000, or whatever; this will not bankrupt the bank. We are talking about the whole system, involving many, many millions of dollars. Bankers fear that if people continue to insist on withdrawing from all savings banks—especially mortgage banks and other banks that have lent large sums to local customers and have most of their funds committed here in the country—those banks cannot return them. We are talking about preserving the banking system so that it can help in the reactivation of the country's economy.

Therefore, we believe that what we—I am referring to those of us who have money in the bank—should do is to start thinking that unless it is an urgent need, such as to pay medical expenses or similar needs, we should not withdraw our savings from banks. We should consider this money necessary for the country's economic reactivation. [end recording]

Article Warns Some Officers To Change Attitude
PA2403022390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
22 Mar 90 p 18A

[Article by Sidney Sitton Ureta: "National Guard Members—Keep Your Place"]

[Text] This article begins with a title that mentions National Guard instead of "Public Force" because that is the name specified in the current Constitution.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen how the National Guard has been illegally meddling in matters that are the exclusive domain of the civilian government. In the same manner, they have publicly shown the arrogance and cynicism that characterized them not too long ago. In other words, although its body was transformed, its

mind and spirit refuse to acknowledge and respect the constitutional and legal powers it disrespected and ignored for 21 years.

Following a recent escape of prisoners in Panama City, Captain Alberto Soto, the jail's director, told reporters that "with their constant visits, lawyers have turned the jail into a museum." The high officer's disrespectful remarks cannot be overlooked, taking into consideration that he has no right to question the presence of lawyers in that jail. Lawyers have the unquestioned right to see their clients as many times as they wish, while Soto has no right to act as the government and justice minister. I witnessed the incident, and I can confirm that the escape was caused by the negligence of personnel under Captain Soto, which Captain Soto does not have the courage or guts to accept.

Meanwhile, LA PRENSA on 18 February published a statement by PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] Director Leslie Loaiza who, together with the assistant district attorney's secretary, announced that several bodies would be exhumed in Pacora. Apparently Leslie Loaiza is the new Attorney

General, as that office is in charge of conducting exhumations. The disrespect for law is such that Loaiza decides which representative from the Attorney General's Office will accompany him. In fact, nothing has changed since the days when the Assistant District Attorney and the Attorney General were servile appendices of the DENI [National Department of Investigations].

In another report published by LA PRENSA, [former Panamanian Air Force Commander] Major Augusto Villalaz assumed the role of media director when he said that "there is a disinformation campaign against the PTJ." Apparently Villalaz has forgotten that he was one of Noriega's collaborators who embezzled funds from Corporacion Bayano—where he was director—leaving it in bankruptcy.

Members of the National Guard: Keep your place, or my pen will continue to report your abuses and arbitrary actions. The people are watching your steps and will not tolerate another military narcodictatorship. I endorse the message sent to you by my good friend Guillermo Sanchez Borbon: "This is the first warning. Beware."

Argentina**Resolution of Tucuman Police Conflict Announced***PA2303174090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1617 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (EFE)—Argentine Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa today said that the five-day conflict involving 300 rebellious policemen in Tucuman Province, northern Argentina, has been resolved.

Order has been reestablished without any kind of concessions, Mera Figueroa said. He also announced the withdrawal of 1,000 members of the Federal Police and the Gendarmerie (border police), who had been deployed to put down the rebellion.

The minister pointed out that the 4,500 members of the police in Tucuman, 1,412 km from Buenos Aires, are following the orders of their respective leaders.

The possibility of declaring a state of siege in Tucuman, one of Argentina's poorest provinces, which had been considered in the beginning, has now been dismissed.

However, the interior minister did not say whether the authorities will punish the rebellious policemen who had demanded the reinstatement of 30 fired companeros and the payment of wages.

The rebellious policemen held their leaders hostage for one day, prompting the beginning of recent actions.

The solution to the Tucuman conflict comes at a time when 600 policemen in neighboring Santiago del Estero Province have been confined to their barracks for demanding their leader's resignations.

The rebellious policemen of Santiago del Estero, 1,240 km North of Buenos Aires, are also demanding a basic salary equivalent to \$90 and so are their companeros of Chaco Province, who have begun talks with the authorities.

Federal Forces Withdrawn*PY2303180190 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] It was officially reported today at noon that the police conflict in Tucuman Province has been overcome and that seniority and the chain of command have been restored.

The interior minister also reported that federal forces were withdrawn and, therefore, the state of siege will not be decreed.

This was the result of a series of meetings and telephone calls the interior minister held throughout the morning at Government House where he arrived early today.

Mera Figueroa began the day by informing the president about the latest developments on the conflict in Tucuman, from which he had returned.

Once in his office, and virtually throughout the morning, Mera Figueroa was in permanent telephone contact with Tucuman Province. He returned at noon to the presidential office to brief the president on the situation.

At the end of his meeting with the president, Mera Figueroa stated the following:

[Begin recording] [Mera Figueroa] I would like to report that the Tucuman conflict has been overcome. I have just informed the president that the Tucuman governor has held a meeting with the leaders of the police who took over police headquarters. I do not know the issues discussed at this meeting, but seniority and the chain of command in the Tucuman police have been restored without making any concessions. Therefore, we can assert that the conflict has been completely overcome.

You will have a full report on the situation from Tucuman by (Teodoro Foguel), the Interior Ministry adviser who next week will be sworn in as the Interior Ministry under secretary for institutional affairs.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct?]

[Mera Figueroa] This is a problem that must be dealt with by the Tucuman governor. All I can say is that the federal forces will be withdrawn. The state of siege will not be enforced because the conflict has been overcome. [end recording]

Santiago del Estero Police Continue Protest*PY2303214890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Report by Horacio Paredero from Santiago del Estero]

[Text] About 600 Santiago del Estero police officers continued their vigil in front of the local police headquarters last night. They are determined to fight to the bitter end unless their demands are met. The officers are demanding a salary increase and the resignations of Police Chief Americo Delgado, the police operations chief, the police personnel chief, the police information chief, and the commanders of Police Units 1, 2, and 5.

The rebels have drafted an 11-point petition that includes their salary demands and complaints on recent promotions, which they allege are in open violation of the current police personnel law; on the implementation of alleged arbitrary measures that the rebels believe were adopted as a reprisal against Termas Police Precinct Radio Command personnel; and on the [name indistinct] 23d Police Precinct. Police personnel on duty at the (?male) prison joined the strike yesterday at 2030.

The Santiago del Estero Government Ministry has informed the public that the situation is calm in police precincts throughout the province and that, except for

this small group of officers, all personnel are obeying the chain of command. The ministry noted that the appropriate legal proceedings have been initiated against this group of officers to punish irregular behavior and that a judge has been appointed.

Initially Reject Government Offer

PY2403034590 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0231 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Santiago del Estero, 23 Mar (TELAM)—Rebel provincial police officers tonight rejected the government's offer and decided to continue their strike. Provincial Interior Minister Eduardo Toledo's attempt to reconcile the parties involved has therefore failed.

Upon leaving the meeting at police headquarters, Chief Inspector Ricardo Gutierrez, who led the rebel delegation, stated that the government is offering "to immediately give back the 30,000 australes that was discounted from the February payroll, to pay 125,000 australes next week, and to study the possibility of increasing wages starting 1 April."

The government also rejected "any changes in the upper echelons of the police force." Gutierrez informed the rebels about the results of the meeting and they expressed their decision to reject the offer and continue the strike.

Many Accept Offer

PY2503023090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0140 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Santiago del Estero, 24 Mar (DYN)—The situation is confusing in Santiago del Estero tonight after some of the 700 police officers who had been on strike for several days for better salaries accepted the government's proposal and lifted their protest. Approximately 100 officers decided to continue their strike, however, pressing for the resignations of the chief and deputy chief of police and the provincial interior under secretary.

This difference of opinion led to a schism among the rebels and caused some tension when those who had accepted the government's proposal were peacefully leaving the gathering place. The police officers who had decided to continue the strike harshly urged them to remain.

Shortly after most officers accepted the government's offer, Governor Cesar Iturre announced that the offer included the "immediate" payment of 30,000 australes, that 25,000 australes more will be also paid as compensation for the general increase in prices due to the increased value added tax, and that the police will also receive any pay raise that may be granted to provincial public servants.

The governor explained that now that the government's proposal has been accepted the tension "is easing off

slowly," although he admitted that "several" of the strikers "remain firm." [passage omitted]

Costa Rica's President Arias Continues Visit

Meets Menem; Communique Issued

PY2403162090 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
22 Mar 90 p 13

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez yesterday reasserted the need "to achieve progress in the Latin American integration process." They also expressed their concern over "the economic crisis that is affecting the region, because it undermines recently established democratic systems."

The two presidents met yesterday afternoon at Government House as part of the official visit that President Arias Sanchez is making to Argentina.

During their meeting the two presidents reviewed numerous international issues. In the communique that was issued at the end of their meeting, the two presidents express their "great satisfaction" over the consolidation of democracy in the Americas, and particularly "Chile's return to the group of democratic countries."

A paragraph of the communique notes their pleasure over "the exemplary elections held in Nicaragua." The presidents also expressed their support for "a complete, peaceful, and orderly transition of power to the elected officials because, this will contribute to a definitive reconciliation among Nicaraguans."

Regarding the Central American situation, Menem and Arias Sanchez expressed their support for "a prompt and complete demobilization of irregular armed groups, which will contribute to the establishment of a full and lasting peace in the region."

The two presidents also discussed the drug trafficking issue. The communique expresses their "firm determination" to struggle "with all available resources" against this scourge. It also expresses the need "to develop an international cooperation process."

Last night President Menem feted President and Mrs. Arias at the Alvear Palace Hotel, where Arias is staying in Buenos Aires. At 1100 today, Arias will deliver a speech to a joint session of Congress.

Addresses Congress

PY2303231290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 23 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday honoured his Costa Rican counterpart and Peace Nobel Prize laureate Oscar Arias with a dinner, where Arias praised the head of state underlining that "President Menem's government is showing others the road by opening possibilities to great markets, and with his

nobility he is trying to overcome hatred and misunderstanding with countries with which his nation was at war until not long ago."

Arias pointed out during his after lunch speech that "the loneliness of power is most felt when it is necessary to impose sacrifices, end with privileges and do things different from the way they were done yesterday."

Earlier in the day Arias addressed a joint session of Congress: "We must not be lenient with violence, terrorism or dictatorship," he said and went on to criticize the Cuban Marxist regime and past rightwing military tyrannies in the continent, emphasizing that "they are all obstacles to freedom and development."

Arias stressed that "we must be successful for many reasons, but mainly because it must be crystal clear that no military dictatorship can be an alternative of political leadership in Latin America." He also highlighted the role of Congress, which he called "a citadel of freedom."

"It is not true that freedom is a luxury to be enjoyed by rich countries," Arias added, and he concluded by stating that "it was not the poor, humble people who unleashed violence in the continent, but others, full of arrogance, which in the name of the people try to justify their dogmas and sustain their ambition."

Calls for Regional Progress

*PY2503234590 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0436 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said in Buenos Aires today that "it is time for America to win and consolidate its freedoms." Arias urged Americans to overcome "hate, pain, and failed plans" for development and social justice.

Arias said regional leaders must find solutions to "our region's pressing poverty problems, the backwardness of our economies, and ties to a past which condemns us and which demagoguery has almost transformed into myth." Arias warned: "We do not have the right to continue to be slaves to a nostalgic past, to be satisfied with the thought that everything used to be better, because today's world demands that we seek concrete solutions and results," Arias warned.

Arias made these statements during a reception offered by his colleague Carlos Menem at a Buenos Aires hotel. Arias said that Latin America carries on its shoulders memories "of deep suffering over massive and cruel human rights violations, debts that sting our pride, and social problems that affect our increasingly poor peoples."

Arias said: "We cannot build a future with old rhetoric, with the lie of the deficit, with inefficiency covered by subsidies, with overbureaucratized justice, and with a corrupted state." Arias reiterated that "our new, fragile,

and vulnerable democracies face gigantic and unprecedented risks. We have to overcome the most difficult economic, political, and social challenges in our American history of freedom."

"The effort required to modernize our economies is enormous; nothing can be achieved without sacrifice," Arias said, stressing that "the developed world has not always supported the idea of a consolidated democratic era in the Americas." Arias said: "Maybe it is because they are looking at other developed European countries, maybe they care little about trading with democratic or subdued [sometidos] countries, but the fact is that financiers have transformed our debt into a political problem."

"We not only have to change and correct a useless past, but we also have to be right in what we choose to create, in the path we choose to follow, because this is the time for America to consolidate and to win its freedom and democracy," Arias stressed.

"Let it be dialogue, tolerance, and compromise, not imposition; talk, not conquest; and reason, not force, that will serve as the guiding forces behind our political attitude," Arias said at the end of his message.

Menem Receives Paraguayan Foreign Minister

*PY2403005090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Excerpt] President Carlos Saul Menem met today with Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana. Both Menem and Argana agreed on a date to dedicate the Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz Bridge, which links the cities of Posadas, Argentina, and Encarnacion, Paraguay. This bridge will be dedicated on 2 April, when the Argentine president and his Paraguayan counterpart Andres Rodriguez will meet on the border.

This report was released by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Argana himself after meeting with the Argentine president, with whom he also discussed the establishment of a petroleum port for Paraguay. Argana said that both Menem and Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo agreed to these proposals. [passage omitted]

Israeli Ambassador Welcomes Menem's Mediation

*PY2403182890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1303 GMT 17 Mar 90*

[Text] Cordoba, 17 Mar (TELAM)—Yitzhaq Shefi, the Israeli ambassador to Argentina, has asserted that President Menem's proposal to mediate in the Middle East conflict is "welcomed" by the Israeli Government because "any politician or statesman who has the confidence of the parties" in dispute may help to achieve peace in the region. During a news conference, the diplomat said: "Undoubtedly, any friend that may help us and our enemies to reach a peaceful solution is

welcome." But he did admit that "this is a complicated issue." He also charged that the enemy is using "double talk."

Shefi, who is in Cordoba to make several protocol visits, said that during his meeting with Cordoba Mayor Ramon Mestre they discussed details of Mestre's coming visit to Jerusalem. Shefi also said that during his meeting with Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz they discussed possible fields of bilateral economic and cultural cooperation. He denied, however, that they discussed an eventual purchase by Israel of planes manufactured in Cordoba Province.

Regrading the current level of trade, Shefi said that "it can be greater." He also said Israeli and Argentine exporters should adopt "a more aggressive policy" because "the Israeli and Argentine markets are not competitive with each other, but rather, complementary."

Shefi also reported that 55 Argentine businessmen will travel to Israel next week to attend the International Agricultural Technology Fair (Agritec), one of the most important international fairs.

Menem Rejects Justicialist President's Remarks

PY2303121690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2319 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has demanded an absolute frankness from all sectors of the Justicialist Party. He described as "wrong" the statements made by Justicialist Party President Antonio Cafiero, who yesterday expressed "the need to return to the doctrinal sources of Justicialism."

Menem made remarks to LV3 Radio Cordoba about Cafiero's statements during a ceremony at the theater of the light and power workers union. Also attending the ceremony were the general secretaries of the two CGT's [General Confederation of Labor] Saul Ubaldini and Guerino Andreoni, and Light and Power Union leader Oscar Lescano.

Cafiero yesterday stressed the need to return to the "doctrinal sources of Peronism." He said: "We do not have to lose our political, cultural and historical identity." He criticized the participation of liberal leaders in the government.

Menem stressed that his government's policy "does not represent liberalism but the purest Justicialism. It is an updated Justicialism that proposes an economy that promotes a humanized capitalism."

Menem said: "When one speaks with Cafiero he says some encouraging things, but he said another thing in an article I read this morning. I believe he speaks differently in other situations."

Menem said that Cafiero "forgets that when General Peron set Justicialism in motion in 1946, Argentina had reserves. My administration has received a bankrupt

state without resources and with widespread corruption. Argentina is heading toward its full growth in a slow but certain manner."

Cafiero today said that "the defense of Peronist historical identity cannot be confused with double talk or with disloyalty." He stressed his agreement "with the great objectives set up by the national government, such as the reform of the state."

Cafiero believes that the incident will not affect relations between the party and the government "and much less the political dialogue and friendship between Menem and Cafiero. We Peronists are well aware that the things that join us are more important than those that accidentally sever our relations."

Cafiero recalled that "during the congress on philosophy held in Mendoza in November 1989, I clearly made a distinction between Peronism and liberalism. I agreed, however, with the great objectives set up by the government such as state reform."

"This does not mean that I do not agree with certain points of the current economic program. On many occasions I have agreed with the president on the fact that he does not need a loyal party." He added that "even yesterday in Brasilia, Menem himself said he expected substantial support from the party which is the logical, normal, and correct procedure."

Economy Minister Comments on Current Issues

PY2403145090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA)—Economy Minister Antonio Gonzalez revealed today that the government expects a 65-percent inflation rate for the coming April through December period. He explained that this estimate "is one of the targets in the 1990 monetary program" that is included in the letter of intent about to be submitted to the IMF.

On a different matter, Gonzalez officially announced that economist Diego Estevez has been appointed under secretary for public enterprises.

The minister also said that beginning next Tuesday there will be new seven day term deposits that "will not generate a deficit for the state because there will not be blocked balances nor interest-earning deposits." Gonzalez dismissed any fear of returning to "short-term operations" because "the banks need to generate funds to be loaned for reactivating the economy."

The minister expressed satisfaction with the way tax collection is proceeding and noted that "VAT [value added tax] revenues will surpass the projected 400 billion australes." He also revealed that the letter of intent to the IMF sets a target of four percent of the GDP for the fiscal surplus, which would be reduced by half if the decision to pay foreign creditors is made.

Gonzalez admitted that the IMF envoys had proposed that the VAT be increased by two percentage points, bringing it to 15 percent. "This proposal was turned down," he affirmed. The minister reiterated that the free foreign exchange market will be maintained, and he added that in his opinion the dollar exchange rate is "adequate." Then he noted that "this time a less jittery accommodation is taking place."

Gonzalez made these remarks as he left a closed door meeting with leaders and deputies from the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. The meeting, which was never confirmed by the minister's private secretary, was held at the headquarters of the Argentine Foundation for Development Promotion (FAPES). There, Minister Gonzalez—a PDC leader and elected deputy—received an ovation from the some 50 people who attended the meeting.

Seineldin Confirms Document; Reportedly Punished

*PY2403011090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] According to the TELAM news agency, retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin this morning confirmed the contents of a document attributed to him in which he alleges that there are divisions within the Army. Seineldin may be punished with a 30-day arrest for issuing this document.

The leader of the Villa Martelli rebellion reported to Army Personnel Director General Mario Candido Diaz, who had summoned Seineldin to either confirm or deny the content of this document.

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 2037 GMT on 23 March reports that "at the end of the meeting between Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Army Personnel Director General Mario Candido Diaz it was officially reported that Seineldin had been punished with a 30-day house arrest. As usual, the Army has not issued an official communique on Seineldin's statement or his punishment."]

Aldo Rico on Death of Caceres, New Army Leaders

*PY2503221890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2131 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico today said that the late Army chief of staff, General Isidro Caceres, "is irreplaceable." Rico added: "I have had and still have the best of relations" with General Martin Balza, the new Army deputy chief of staff.

Rico told TELAM that "Caceres is irreplaceable. Beyond any differences with the general, we have to recognize that he was the last of the high ranking officers with prestige and irreproachable honesty." Rico said that "Caceres adequately fulfilled his duties during the Malvinas Islands conflict and had the Army's support. There is no one left among the high ranking officers with those characteristics."

On Gen. Balza, Rico said: "I have had and still have the best of relations with him. He is a good combat soldier. He did a good job as the head of an artillery group during the Malvinas Island conflict. Beyond any differences we may have, I consider him very intelligent."

Regarding the current Army leadership, the leader of the Holy Week and Monte Caceres rebellions said: "We hope the new administration can find solutions to our institutional problems, although I am tremendously pessimistic."

Rico said: "Despite our pessimism, we expect the new team of administrators to be able to at least improve Army unity." Rico reiterated that "we have a single Argentine Army, a national Army, but the administration does not understand the feelings in the ranks."

Air Force Chief Wants To 'Feed the Needy'

*PY2303234590 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2138 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (DYN)—Brigadier General Jose Julia, chief of staff of the Air Force, today said that "it is necessary to feed the needy," because "there should not be nine or 10 million hungry people in Argentina." Julia made this statement at Government House after talking with President Carlos Menem.

The Air Force chief of staff explained that he "fully agrees" with the document that the Catholic Church released this week alerting the ruling class to the suffering of the people.

Julia stated that the social situation is "the worst problem" and added that although he does not believe in "giving things away," we must all "make an effort and feed the needy until the economic situation stabilizes and they are able to find work."

Political Parties Repudiate 1976 Military Coup

*PY2303235090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2245 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (DYN)—The main political parties, except for the Democratic Centrist Union, signed a document in the Federal Capital today repudiating the military coup d'etat that took place on 24 March 1976 on the occasion of the upcoming 14th anniversary of this action.

The document was signed by the presidents of the Radical Civic Union, the Justicialist Party, the Intransigent Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the United Socialist Party, the Federal Party, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

These parties emphasized that they are "aware that there are people in Argentina who are taking advantage of the crisis to undermine the prestige of democracy and to call for the return of authoritarianism, which is swimming against the tide of history."

Foreign Minister To Meet Shevardnadze in Hungary

PY2403135290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today promised Seymour Reich, president of the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith International, that he would convey to his USSR counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, a request from B'nai B'rith to have Aeroflot establish direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv to expedite the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. After meeting Cavallo at the Foreign Ministry, Reich reported that the foreign minister "promised to convey our concern" to Shevardnadze at their next meeting. Reich will meet President Carlos Menem on 26 March.

Cavallo is planning to meet with Shevardnadze in Budapest, Hungary, on 10-12 April when the "Group of Eight" foreign ministers meet with those of Eastern Europe.

The president of the largest Jewish organization in the world also said that "the public and the U.S. Government must be informed of the daring plans of the Argentine Government to change the country's economic situation." He said that U.S. investors may come to Argentina if they have confidence in the country and in its economic stability, and if the economic reform continues.

Reich, an American Jew, indicated that he had "not seen any display of anti-Semitism" in Argentina and emphasized that the relations between the various religious communities "are cordial and respectful."

Trade Relations With Soviet Union To Expand

PY2403172090 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA
in Spanish 21 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] The 12th Argentine-Soviet Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, and Scientific Cooperation has finished its tasks after three days of discussions, in which the commission analyzed bilateral trade development and announced agreements on new joint undertakings.

Ambassador Carlos Sanchez Arnau, under secretary for bilateral economic negotiations at the Foreign Ministry, has reported on the commission's work and pointed out the importance of the meeting because the Soviet Union is currently Argentina's main buyer.

Sanchez Arnau said that some of the most important results of the meeting were the opening of an office of the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank in Buenos Aires and the creation, in Moscow, of a mixed enterprise for the manufacture of sports clothes.

The Soviet delegation was headed by Minister of Foreign Economic Relations [title as published] Aleksandr Kachanov, with whom Argentine officials analyzed the creation of new joint undertakings and the increasing diversification of trade between the two countries.

Sanchez Arnau said that the final act signed by the joint commission also foresees the study of conditions for the resumption of Argentine beef exports to the USSR.

Sanchez Arnau concluded by saying that Argentina will increase its sales of soy beans, wheat, animal feed, and leather, and its purchase of Soviet equipment for electrical plants, turbine compressors, and road construction equipment.

PRC President To Make Official Visit in May

PY2403235490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1302 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (NA)—PRC President Yang Shangkun will make an official visit to Argentina on 26 May. He will meet Argentine President Carlos Menem during his visit, among other activities. Yang will also tour Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay. The visit, originally scheduled in June 1989, was suspended due to the disturbances in Tiananmen Square.

Yang's visit is especially important since Beijing has become one of Argentina's most important trade partners over the past few years. Argentina's trade balance showed a surplus of approximately \$550 million in 1989.

Naval Prefecture Receives Spanish Fighter Planes

PY2403002790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1724 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM)—Defense Ministry Under Secretary Omar Vaquir this morning presided over a ceremony in which five Spanish C-212 fighter planes were handed over to the Argentine Naval Prefecture. The airplanes will be used for maritime and river traffic control missions, security and navigation assistance, and for controlling illegal trade.

The ceremony was held at the military sector of the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport, with Vaquir representing Defense Minister Humberto Romero. Also present at the ceremony were the staff members of the Prefecture, headed by the prefect, General Victor Zibell. [passage omitted]

Principal Prefect Pedro Gomez, chief of the Prefecture Aviation Department, gave detailed information to Vaquir about the characteristics and capabilities of these dual-turboprop engine aircraft, which are equipped with sophisticated instruments for the detection of targets up to 200 nautical miles away. They also have modern communications and equipment for night operations. The planes can also be used to support navigation, enforce the national fishing law, and detect leaks of hydrocarbons or dangerous materials from ships.

Venezuelan Air Force Commander in Chief Visits

PY2403021790 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2250 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (DYN)—General Candido Farias Rodriguez, commander in chief of the Venezuelan Air Force, today flew a Pucara plane for approximately 20 minutes. He was visiting the 3d Air Brigade in Reconquista, Santa Fe Province.

The Venezuelan Air Force commander arrived in Argentina yesterday at the invitation of his Argentine counterpart, Brigadier General Jose Julia. General Farias Rodriguez first attended a static exhibition of Air Force material and then a flight demonstration of Pucara IA-58 fighter planes. At the end of the flight demonstration Farias Rodriguez boarded one of the Pucara planes and flew it for 20 minutes.

The IA-58 Pucara planes were used in the South Atlantic War in 1982. Three of these planes were recently donated to Colombia to be used in the antidrug struggle.

Brazil

Composition of New Economy Ministry Outlined

PY2203120090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 16 Mar 90, Economic Section, p 3

[Report by Ribamar Oliveira and Jocimar Nastari]

[Text] Brasilia—The high command of the Finance, Planning, and Economy Ministry is already known and is ready to implement the economic stabilization program. Six people will share the responsibilities and the attributions of the most important ministry of the new Collor government with Zelia Cardoso de Mello: Antonio Kandir, Sergio Nascimento, Eduardo Teixeira, Marcelo Paiva Abreu, Marcos Gianetti da Fonseca, and Geraldo Gardenalli. This is the front-line squadron in the war that President Fernando Collor wants to wage against inflation. Central Bank President Ibrahim Eris and Central Bank Monetary Policy Department Director Luiz Eduardo de Assis must be included in this front-line platoon.

Economist Antonio Kandir will be special adviser for economic matters, a post similar to that held by economist Luiz Gonzaga Belluzzo during Dilson Funaro's administration as Finance Minister. He will be the closest person to Minister Cardoso, a sort of direct adviser with free access. He will be responsible for the strategy of the government's economic policy, and he will command a group of technicians who will find solutions to the most important problems that may occur after the implementation of the Collor Plan. He is linked to the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] and especially to Deputy Jose Serra.

Businessman Sergio Nascimento, who was working in the export area, will head the economy minister's cabinet. Economist Eduardo Teixeira, graduate of Campinas University, will hold the second post in the structure of the new ministry jointly with Luiz Gonzaga Belluzzo. Teixeira was on Funaro's economic advisory team, and later he participated in the preparation of the Bresser and Summer Plans. His role will be to implement the plans developed by the ministry in all areas. The new ministry will consist of three new secretariats: Planning, Finance, and Economy. Each of these secretariats will have three departments.

The Planning Secretariat will have the Budget, Planning, and International Matters departments, and will be headed by economist Marcos Gianetti Fonseca. Fonseca graduated from the University of Sao Paulo and received a Phd from Yale University (USA). He is 42-years old and has two children. Linked to the PSDB, he was Sao Paulo's finance secretary during Franco Montoro's administration.

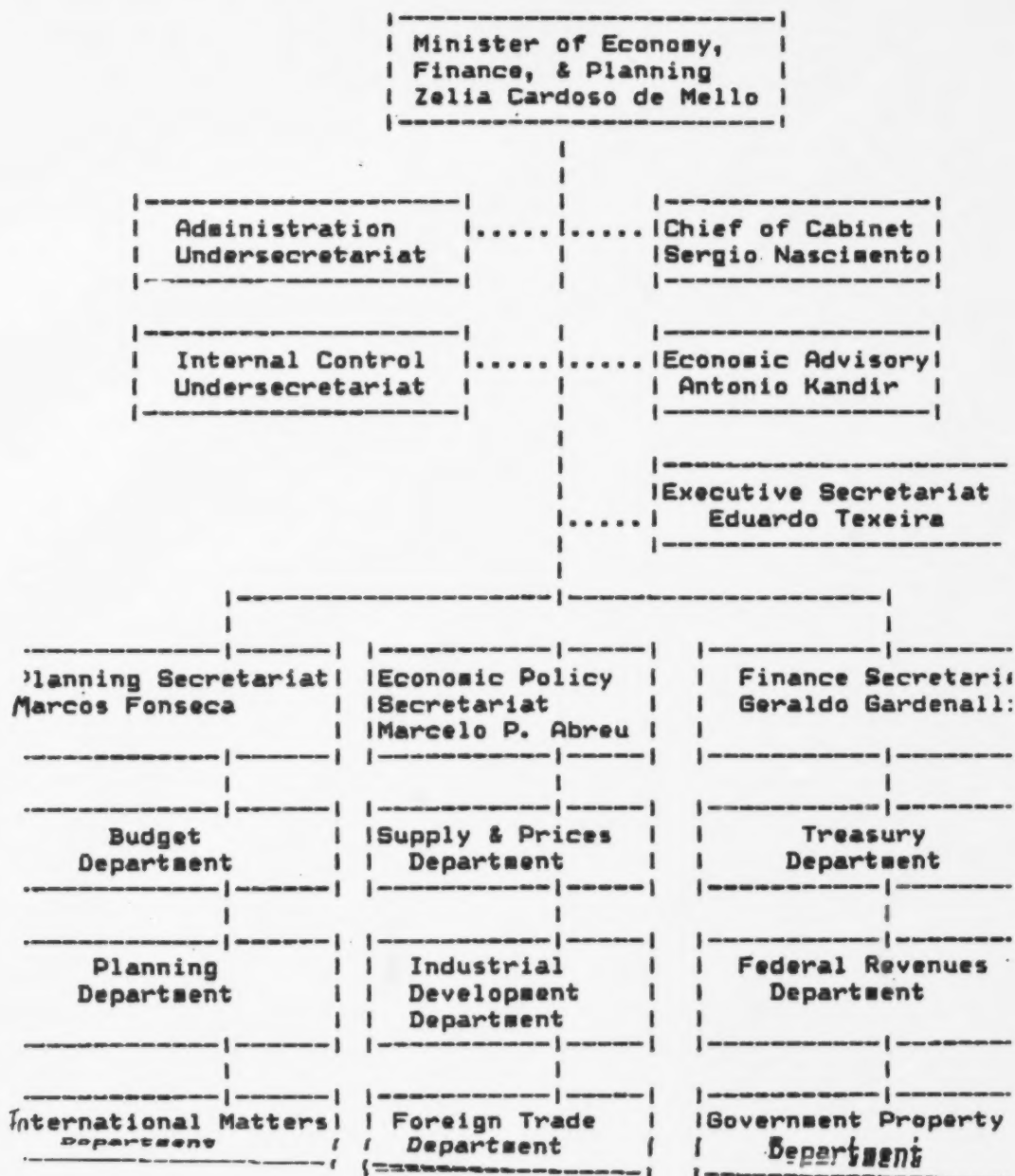
The Economy, or Economic Policy Secretariat (the name was still in doubt as of yesterday), will include the Supply and Prices, Industrial Development, and Foreign Trade departments. It will be headed by economist Marcelo Paiva Abreu, who graduated from the Rio de Janeiro Pontifical Catholic University, and received a Master's Degree from the University of London.

The Finance Secretariat will include the Treasury, Federal Revenues, and Government Property departments. It will be headed by economist Geraldo Gardenalli, professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation and one of the main analysts in the Pao de Acucar Group. Gardenalli was special adviser to former Finance Minister Bresser Pereira.

SOUTH AMERICA

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SUPERMINISTRY



Collor Announces Modifications in Economic Plan

PY2303183890 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo
Television in Portuguese 1424 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Speech by President Fernando Collor de Mello from Planalto Palace—live]

[Text] Mr. Vice President of the Republic, Messrs. Ministers, Messrs. Chief of the Military Household and Secretary of Government, Messrs. Senators and Deputies, leaders of the parties that support this government and Brazil as we overcome the crisis and construct the new Brazil we all yearn for, my friendly fellow Brazilians:

First, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I would like to thank each and every one of you who support the initiatives we have adopted to end inflation once and for all. We have adopted these measures to increase the value of the workers' salaries; to better distribute wealth in the country; to achieve social justice; and to promote the creation of a fairer and more brotherly society oriented toward economic growth and simultaneous social welfare growth for all Brazilians.

I would like to thank all of you for the support you have been offering me and which is shown in all the polls being conducted throughout Brazil. There is great confidence in the economic plan drafted by the new Brazilian Government. The support of the congressional leaders who are sitting at this table gives us hope that we will soon win the fight against inflation. Thank you to all who share this hope. We are now meeting with the vice president, ministers, senators, and deputies who support our fight against inflation, just as you do. I want to tell you that there is perfect harmony between Congress and the Presidency. Both are joining efforts to ensure this victory within the shortest time possible.

I therefore want to thank various government leaders: Senators Jose Ignacio, Renan Calheiros, Ney Maranhao, Ricardo Fiuza, Guilherme Afif Domingos, and Senator De Carli; Deputies Adolfo de Oliveira, Eduardo Souza Campos, Ismael Wanderlei, Amaral Neto; Senators Moises Abraao and Marco Maciel, and all others who could not be here with us, but even so, offer their support for our main goal of putting a definitive end to inflation.

Today's meeting is aimed at making some parts of our economic program clearer. We are only able to make them clearer, my dear fellows, because there is perfect understanding among congressional leaders, the economy minister, the cabinet, and the executive branch. We will adopt the suggestions made by these comrades, who are in tune with the needs of Brazilian society and are listening to your wishes and hopes, and who are absolutely convinced of the huge responsibility each one of us as individuals, and the National Congress as an institution, has. Only thus will we be able to swiftly approve these measures. Only thus will we more swiftly start reaping the rewards of this great victory that we will

surely achieve, thanks to the harmonious work of Brazilian society, Congress, and the executive branch, and the attentive support of the judicial branch.

Today we will sign a provisional measure. Based on this provisional measure, Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello to clarify some issues. Using the metaphor I used in a television program some time ago, thanks to these resolutions, we will open a breach in the dam and begin to irrigate our economic activities, but we will have to make sure that this irrigation is done in a careful and responsible manner.

At this moment I would like to appeal to your confidence and make a request that is also contained in our proposals and which I believe will also become clear through the resolutions and provisional measures we are going to sign. You will be collecting salaries until the end of the month. I want to ask you not to spend your salary on unessential goods.

You must have noticed, my dear fellows, that prices are going down, lower and lower. You must have also noticed that we are supervising the economy and punishing, in strict accordance with the law, those who are not willing to obey the rules established by this program, which is not the president's, the government's, or the Congress's program. This program belongs to the entire Brazilian nation. You know prices are going down because there is a shortage of cruzeiros. As a result, those who have something to sell and who need cruzeiros must reduce and reduce the prices in order to obtain these cruzeiros. This is the mechanism that will finally make us gain—in 30 or 45 days—complete control over inflation. If you use your salaries to buy products that are not absolutely essential, you will increase the demand for these products, and the prices will begin to go up. Consequently, I suggest, I ask you, to use your salaries to buy only essential items. I also suggest that you bargain, ask for more and more discounts, and discuss the prices, thus increasing your salaries' purchasing power.

Do not spend your money on superfluous things. If there is anything left, particularly in the case of those who are less affluent and have a lower salary, please deposit this money in your savings passbooks. After the measure that we had to adopt, which established that the savings passbooks funds be withheld, the passbooks have continued to yield profit, and you will be able to withdraw this profit. Therefore, save money, deposit it in the banks, so that we can thus prevent a further escalation of prices.

I also want to make another request. I want to ask the bankers and the financial sector in general to support our plan more energetically. We know there have been operational difficulties, but now it is time for the banks to improve their services. The banks must not only interpret the law, they must now comply with the law. We will be carefully supervising and controlling the sector. We do not want to have to vigorously enforce the law, but if it is necessary, do not doubt that we will do so. We will do so to defend the citizenry, the immense

majority of the Brazilian people who want—more than ever before—to be respected as the citizens of a country that has a fairer society, like the one we have just started to build in Brazil.

I also want to again address the entrepreneurs. I know that these are hard times for entrepreneurs and industrialists because we had to curtail the money supply. Entrepreneurs—particularly those in the construction sector—must understand, however, that we are implementing this series of reforms to ensure that the state will recover its capacity to invest.

If the state recovers this capacity, you can be sure that one of the sectors that will benefit most will be the construction sector. One of the priority goals of our government is to give the people homes. There is currently a deficit of 10 million homes in the country. More than 10 million families are without homes. We have committed ourselves to these Brazilians, who suffer so much because they have no roof to shelter themselves and their families. As soon as the state recovers its capacity to invest, a large portion of this investment will be used to build homes for the most destitute strata of our society. This is why I am making a call to the entrepreneurs and the industrialists, in general, and to the construction sector in particular: Do not dismiss your employees. Do not fire any of your employees, because by doing so you would not be cooperating with our program, you would not be defending the main point of the program, which is to fight inflation without dismissing anyone.

I wanted to make this request because I am sure that everyone will sacrifice a little so that the immense majority of Brazilians can benefit.

Again, I want to thank the Brazilian society, for whom this plan was drafted. I want to thank the congressional leaders for their support. I want to thank the National Congress—represented here by those who are supporting the government in this decisive moment in our history—because it has been showing that it is politically mature, that it has a public spirit, and that it is in perfect harmony with Brazilian society. I also want to thank the workers and the labor unions. I want to thank all the sectors of civilian society that have been sharing this exciting moment and our certainty that we will finally build a nation that is socially more fair, more brotherly, and more harmonious.

We will now sign the documents. Thank you very much, and let us continue to stage this fight together. Thank you for your confidence and thank you for the firmness with which you are supporting this economic program, whose main goal is to defend the best interests of the Brazilian people.

We will now proceed to sign the documents.

More on Modifications

PY2303221490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo
Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpts] President Fernando Collor today announced some changes in the economic stabilization program. The ceiling on the amount of money that pensioners—who are exempt from paying income tax—may withdraw from their savings accounts has been lifted. The freeze on the FGTS [Unemployment Compensation Fund] for unemployed workers has also been lifted. President Collor today met with ministers and political leaders to sign the provisional measure that has been submitted to Congress. [passage omitted]

President Collor's provisional measure lifts the freeze on the FGTS for workers dismissed after 15 January; authorizes the savings accounts of labor unions and charity and social service organizations to be converted from cruzados into cruzeiros; authorizes the conversion of funds withheld under court order; authorizes checks in cruzados to pay freight to be cashed in cruzeiros; authorizes pensioners exempt from paying income to withdraw more than the 50,000-cruzeiro ceiling from their savings accounts; and authorizes farmers who are registered as private individuals to also withdraw cruzeiros to pay their employees' wages.

The economy minister will issue a resolution regulating this provisional measure. [passage omitted]

Survey Shows Growing Support for Economic Plan

PY2503024390 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 23 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Popular support for the Collor plan is still growing six days after its implementation. A survey conducted by DataFolha in 10 state capitals reveals that 81 percent of all Brazilians believe that the shock has done the country good. Only five percent believe that it has been bad for the country, while eight percent feel that the plan is part good and part bad. The first survey, conducted on 17 March, showed that 58 percent of those surveyed supported the plan. The level of support among people who voted for Collor last year is 90 percent; the rate for those who voted for the Workers Party is 72 percent.

Four Parties Promise Support

PY2503030090 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 23 Mar 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia—The congressional blocs of the Liberal Front Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Brazilian Workers Party and the National Reconstruction Party yesterday formally promised President Fernando Collor to approve the economic plan as a whole and to waive their right to submit amendments during the plan's passage through Congress. The approximately 200 congressmen of the four blocs met separately with the president, heard his arguments, and decided to give him their vote of confidence. After a 30-day grace period they

will have the right to call for adjustments to be implemented by the government through administrative resolutions or new provisional measures. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor General: 2 Measures Unconstitutional

*PY2503031490 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 24 Mar 90 p 7*

[Excerpts] Brasilia—National Prosecutor General Aristides Junqueira Alvarenga yesterday brought suit before the Federal Supreme Court calling for the suspension of two provisional measures of the new economic plan on grounds of unconstitutionality. According to the prosecutor, Provisional Measures 153 and 156—which punish crimes against the economy of the people and against public finances—violate the Constitution, jeopardize the democratic process, and irreparably damage individual freedoms. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor Junqueira believes that the measures epitomize the chief executive's usurpation of the powers of the legislative branch. By issuing provisional measures with the force of law, President Fernando Collor is meddling with the criminal code of law and "paving the way for the possibility of causing irreparable harm to the major right of individual freedoms." [passage omitted]

Castro Refuses to Comment on Collor's Speech

*PY2303175490 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 90 p 12*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Fidel Castro refused to comment on the paragraph of President Fernando Collor's inaugural speech in which he noted that "democracy and the free market economy system are universal trends." Castro told ESTADO news reporter that the equipment providing a simultaneous translation of the speech was not working properly at that point of the speech. Fidel said: "I did not hear that part of the speech." He went on to say: "I was unable to understand the part referring to international policy and the foreign debt problem."

The truth is that Castro applauded when Collor said that foreign debt cannot jeopardize development.

Fidel Castro sat in the front row in the Chamber of Deputies Hall. But, because of alleged reception problems, he said he would make comments on Collor's speech after reading it carefully. The Cuban leader was equally careful in giving his opinion on the new Brazilian Government by saying that "it is too soon to give an opinion." In Castro's opinion, Collor has "a great challenge" ahead of him the same as "the other Latin American presidents."

During the inauguration Castro either quickened or slowed his pace to avoid embarrassing meetings with political adversaries, such as U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle. At one point on the Planalto mezzanine Castro and Quayle were only 10 meters apart, separated by security guards in two rows: one U.S. and one Cuban.

Castro also remained cautiously distant from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Before returning to Cuba, Castro intends to meet with two candidates defeated in the presidential elections: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Workers Party (PT) and Leonel Brizola of the Democratic Workers' Party (PDT). [passage omitted]

CNEN Chief Nazareth Replaced by Luiz Santana

*PY2503195190 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 23 Mar 90 p 11*

[Report by Tania Malheiros]

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro—Physicist Rex Nazareth, 52, one of the top mentors in the Brazilian parallel nuclear program, was replaced yesterday as head of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN). He will be replaced by physicist Jose Luiz Santana, brother-in-law of Federal Deputy Prisco Viana of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB). Santana has served as the secretary general of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, in the Office for the Financing of Studies and Projects (Finep), in the Institute of Radio-Protection [Radioprotecao] and Dosimetry (IRD), and in the CNEN, which he left four years ago because of incompatibility with Rex Nazareth. [passage omitted]

Santana is not known in the scientific community and his positions in the parallel nuclear program and the Angra I and Angra II nuclear power plants are not known. "I hope that the CNEN will continue to display its capabilities for the benefit of Brazilian society and will never allow the country to become dependent on other nations," Nazareth said.

Provisional Measure 154: Prices, Salaries

*PY2303155590 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 24*

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 154, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] Provisional Measure 154, dated 15 March 1990, creates a new system for the general readjustment of prices and salaries and introduces other provisions.

The president of the Republic, in the exercise of the authority vested on him by Article 62 of the Constitution, hereby decrees the following Provisional Measure, which will have binding legal power:

Article 1 - As of the date of publication of this Provisional Measure and until further notice, all readjustments of prices of merchandise and services in general shall be forbidden, unless previously authorized by a resolution issued by the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Planning.

Article 2 - Through the "OFFICIAL GAZETTE," the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Planning will establish:

I - on the first working day of each month, as of 1 May 1990, the maximum authorized monthly readjustment of prices of merchandise and services in general;

II - on the first working day after the 15th day of each month, as of 15 April 1990, the minimum authorized monthly readjustment for salaries in general and for the minimum salary;

III - on the first working day after the 15th day of each month, as of 15 April 1990, the ceiling for the average price readjustment for the 30-day period beginning on the first day of the month.

Paragraph 1 - The minimum monthly salary readjustment, which is established by this Article, shall be used to readjust the remuneration for the work done during the respective month.

Paragraph 2 - The maximum readjustment for the price of general merchandise and services shall be valid for 30 days after the date of its publication by the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning. At least 30 days shall elapse between consecutive readjustments.

Paragraph 3 - The Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning will consider special readjustment requests for specific prices, provided the target for the average price readjustment referred to in Clause III is not jeopardized.

Paragraph 4 - The restriction mentioned in the previous paragraph shall not apply to the price readjustments which were authorized before 30 April 1990.

Paragraph 5 - The Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning will ask either the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, IBGE, or a well-known specialized research institution to calculate appropriate price indexes for estimating the average fluctuation of prices over the periods corresponding to the targets referred to in Clause III.

Article 3 - Salary readjustments above the minimum readjustment percentage referred to in Article 2 may be freely negotiated by the interested parties.

Single paragraph - Salary readjustments above the minimum readjustment level mentioned in Clause II of Article 2 shall not be considered for the readjustment of prices mentioned in Paragraph 3 of the same Article.

Article 4 - Failure to comply with the price and salary readjustment figures referred to in Articles 1 and 2 shall entail the commission of a crime of abuse of economic power, which is foreseen in Provisional Measure 153 dated 15 March 1990.

Single paragraph - Without precluding the other penalties, those who readjust prices above the authorized percentages, fail to observe the minimum 30-day period between subsequent readjustments, or monopolize merchandise for speculation purposes will be liable to an automatic 180-day suspension of their right to request the special price readjustments referred to in Paragraph 3 of Article 2.

Article 5 - As of 1 April 1990, the minimum salary will be automatically readjusted on a quarterly basis, providing the accumulated monthly salary readjustments are lower than the accumulated readjustment of prices of a basket of basic staples, which will be defined by a resolution by the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning. A five-percent increase will be added to this automatic readjustment percentage.

Single Paragraph - The automatic readjustment percentage referred to in this Article will be equal to the accumulated readjustment of prices of the basic staple basket plus a five-percent increase, after deduction of the monthly readjustments referred to in Clause II of Article 2.

Article 6 - As of 1 April 1990, the rents provided for in contracts affecting real estate property in general will be readjusted on the basis of the average readjustment of prices mentioned in Clause II of Article 2.

Single paragraph - Rent relating to contracts signed before the publication of this Provisional Measure will be readjusted on the basis of the indices specified by the contracts for the months prior to April 1990, in keeping with the appropriate regulations.

Article 7 - Monthly school tuition due as of 1 April 1990 will be readjusted in keeping with the minimum percentage for the readjustment of salaries mentioned in Clause II of Article 2.

Single paragraph - Monthly tuition due to be paid up until 31 March 1990 will be readjusted in keeping with the appropriate regulations.

Article 8 - The terms of this Provisional measure shall apply:

I - to the salaries, soldiers' wages, and other remunerations and financial benefits earned by public servants, by the military sector, by the personnel of the centralized administration and of self-supporting agencies at the federal, state, and municipal levels, including the Legislative and Judicial branches. It will also apply to the retirement allowances and pensions granted to these sectors;

II - to the salaries and the other remunerations and financial benefits earned by the employees of state-run companies and foundations, mixed companies and other agencies which are under the direct or indirect control of the Federal Government, the States, the Federal District, or the Municipal Districts;

III - to the retirement allowances and pensions paid by the Social Security System.

Article 9 - The Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning will issue the appropriate resolutions for the implementation of this Provisional Measure.

Article 10 - Decree Law No. 808 dated 18 May 1967, Law No. 7765 dated 26 May 1989, Articles 1 to 7 of Law No. 7788 dated 3 July 1989, and Article 2 of Law No. 7789 dated 3 July 1989, the other special or general regulations on price and salary readjustment, and all

regulations which contradict the terms of this Provisional Measure are hereby repealed.

Article 11 - This Provisional Measure shall come into force on the date of its publication.

Brasilia, Federal District, 15 March 1990; 169th year of Independence and 102d year of the Republic.

Provisional Measure 159: Civil Servants' Rules

*PY2403171690 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 24*

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 159, issued in Brasilia 15 March]

[Text] This measure refers to the conduct of the civil servants of the federal government, autonomous agencies, and public foundations and establishes other provisions.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, hereby decrees the following provisional measure, which is binding as law:

Article 1. This law considers that a civil public servant is a person who has been legally designated to hold a public position or to render services in the federal government, autonomous agencies, or public foundations.

Article 2. Civil public servants shall:

- I. discharge their duties with zeal and dedication;
- II. be loyal to the institutions they serve;
- III. observe the law and the regulations;
- IV. comply with orders from their superiors, unless such orders are clearly illegal;
- V. expeditiously:
 - a. serve the public in general, supplying the necessary information, except for information that has been labeled secret;
 - b. issue the certificates that are needed for supporting individual rights or for clarifying issues posed by individuals;
 - c. respond to any requests in connection with the preservation of public finances;
- VI. report to higher authorities the irregularities of which they become aware while discharging their duties;
- VII. use material with moderation and help to conserve public property;
- VIII. keep the office information confidential;
- IX. observe public moral standards in their behavior;
- X. regularly and punctually report to work;
- XI. treat other public servants and the public in general courteously;
- XII. report illegal actions or abuse of power.

Single paragraph. The reports referred to under XII shall compulsorily be considered by the superior of the official who has been reported. The reporter's right to protection shall be appropriately guaranteed.

Article 3. The following actions shall be considered administrative faults liable to warning in writing:

- I. leaving service during working hours without authorization from the immediate supervisor;
- II. denying the validity of public documents;
- III. referring to public authorities or to government action in a disrespectful or scornful manner, except for attributed criticism on ideology or doctrine;
- IV. delegating the powers that are under one's jurisdiction and responsibility, or under the responsibility of one's subordinates, to people outside one's office, except when provided for by law.

Article 4. The following actions shall be considered administrative faults liable to punishment with suspension of up to 90 days, in addition to dismissal, if applicable:

- I. taking out of the office any office document or material without previous written authorization by the appropriate authorities;
- II. hindering the circulation of documents, the implementation of procedures, or the rendering of services;
- III. compelling other public servants to join a professional or union association, or a political party;
- IV. operating as an agent or middleman in public offices;
- V. accepting commissions, employment, or pensions from foreign governments without the authorization of the president of the Republic;
- VI. assigning to other public servants, functions and activities outside the posts that they hold or the functions that they fulfill, except in emergencies or as temporary situations;
- VII. keeping spouses, unmarried mates, or relatives of up to the 2d civil degree under direct supervision;
- VIII. buying or selling goods or services at the office, even if during off-duty hours.

Single Paragraph—When service requires, a suspension can be converted into a fine based on 50 percent of the salary, and the public servant is obligated to work.

Article 5. For the good of public service the following administrative faults can be punished with dismissal:

- I. taking advantage, or deliberately allowing third parties to take advantage, of information, prestige, or influence to obtain directly or indirectly personal benefit to the detriment of the dignity of public service;
- II. participating in the administration of private enterprise or doing business with the state;
- III. using personnel or public material resources in private service or activities;
- IV. carrying out any activity that may be incompatible with the position or the work schedule;
- V. holding more than one public position, except those allowed by the Constitution, in public foundations or mixed economy enterprises of the Federal District, states, territories, and municipalities.
- VI. intentionally abandoning one's position for more than 30 consecutive days;
- VII. failing to show up for work intermittently for 20 days during a six-month period [figures as published];

VIII. accepting or promising to accept tips, gifts of any type or value, as well as personal loans or privileges of any kind, related to one's duties.

Single Paragraph. The same penalty will be applied to the following cases:

- I. improper political activity and shameful behavior;
- II. administrative dishonesty;
- III. serious insubordination at work;
- IV. bodily injury at work to a public servant or another individual, except in legitimate self-defense or the defense of another;
- V. revelation of a secret obtained in public functions;
- VI. negligence in carrying out functions appropriately.

Article 6. If the servant repeats a fault, the warning given automatically becomes a suspension for 30 days.

Article 7. The suspension automatically stops the payment of salary during the suspension.

Article 8. The dismissal from a post held in commission will disqualify the public servant to serve in other federal public post.

Article 9. The retirement pension of a retiree will be suspended if he had, during his years in activity, committed a fault punishable with dismissal.

Article 10. Disciplinary penalties can be applied within five years of the date the infraction became known.

Article 11. The administrative disciplinary process to impose penalties provided for in this provisional measure will be governed by the legal and regulatory norms in force.

Article 12. This provisional measure goes into effect on the date of its publication, rescinding all provisions to the contrary.

Fernando Collor

Zelia Cardoso de Mello

Provisional Measure 160: Tax Regulations

PY2603002090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 25

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 160, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] This measure changes the tax law on financial operations, temporarily affecting the actions detailed herein, and establishes other provisions.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, and taking into account Article 153, Section V, of the same Constitution, hereby decrees the following provisional measure:

Article 1. The following tax rules are hereby instituted on credit, exchange, and insurance operations and operations related to certificates and securities:

I. Redemption of public and private securities and certificates, including short-term certificates, such as exchange bonds, time deposits with or without the issue of certificates, security and debenture bonds, and mortgage certificates;

II. Transfer or sale of gold established by law as a financial asset;

III. Transfer and redemption of gold certificates;

IV. Transfer of shares from companies with open capital negotiated in stock markets, and discharge of any advantage granted in this transaction;

V. Withdrawals from savings accounts.

Article 2. The tax instituted herein will have the following characteristics:

I. It will only affect operations carried out with assets in which the principal is owned by the taxpayer on the date this provisional measure is published;

II. It will have a single effect on the first operations specified in each section of this article, carried out with certificates and securities from the publication date of this provisional measure, with the effects on successive operations with the same certificates or securities excluded;

III. It will not affect operations already established by law, and when such an instance occurs, it will be considered additional to operations already established by that law;

IV. It will not relatively affect shares if the overall value held by the owner on the date this provisional measure is published is not more than 10,000 fiscal BTN [National Treasury Bonds adjusted daily for inflation];

V. It will not relatively affect deposits in savings accounts if the overall value of the deposits on the date of publication of this provisional measure is not more than 10,000 BTN;

VI. It will have no effect on the redemption of installments of common funds, on the redemption of interfinancial deposits carried out in accordance with the current law, or on the redemption of securities in the portfolios of financial institutions involved in repurchase agreements;

Paragraph 1. Assessment of the overall value of shares held by the owner, as cited in Item IV, will be determined by taking the average price for each share based on the last offer in the stock market, prior to the publication of this measure, when the average price is determined in terms of the fiscal BTN as of this date;

Paragraph 2. Assessment of the overall value of deposits in savings accounts, as cited in Item V, will be made on the basis of the total balance of an account on the dates when the interest is paid in March 1990, including the deposits made this month, converted into BTN.

Article 3. The basis for calculating the tax treated by this provisional measure is as follows:

I. In the cases discussed in Item I of Article 1, the redemption value;

II. In the cases discussed in Items II and III of Article 1, the value of the operation;

III. In the cases discussed in Item IV of Article 1, the value of the operation in the stock market, observing the reduction provided for in Article 8;

IV. In the cases discussed in Item V of Article 1, the value of the withdrawal, observing the reduction provided for in Article 8.

Single paragraph. In the case of acquisitions of shares and gold through exercising option rights, the basis for calculation will be determined by using the average price on the stock market on the date of the operation, taking into account, in the case of shares, the reduction provided for in Paragraph 2 of this article;

Article 4. It is hereby established that the taxpayer must present within a 30-day period a statement detailing financial assets mentioned in Items II, III, IV, and V of Article 1 when at least one of the following conditions applies:

I. The taxpayer owns gold;

II. The taxpayer holds shares whose value is greater than 10,000 fiscal BTN.

III. The overall value of the balance in the taxpayer's savings account is greater than 10,000 BTN.

Single paragraph. The Federal Revenues Secretariat will establish the manner in which the information treated in this article will be presented.

Article 5. The tax rate established by this provisional measure is as follows:

I. Eight percent in cases discussed in Item I of Article 1;

II. Thirty-five percent in cases discussed in Items II and III of Article 1;

III. Twenty-five percent in cases discussed in Item IV of Article 1;

IV. Twenty percent in cases discussed in Item V of Article 1.

Article 6. The percentages provided for in Items II, III, and IV will be reduced, respectively, to 15 percent, eight percent, and eight percent if the taxpayer decides, within 30 days of the publication of this provisional measure, to pay the tax established in Article 1, with the opportunity to pay in five equal and successive monthly installments updated to variations in the fiscal BTN.

Single paragraph. The taxpayer's decision to advance tax payments must be indicated in the statement mentioned in Article 4.

Article 7. The advance payment of the first installment will be made when the statement mentioned in Article 4 is presented, using the Document for Federal Revenues Collection, DARF.

Paragraph 1. In calculating the amount of the advance payment, the values mentioned in Items IV and V of Article 2 will be reduced for shares and savings accounts, respectively;

Paragraph 2. The advance payment can be made in new cruzados, but no fractioning will be allowed in this case;

Article 8. In cases when taxpayers have no option of making advanced payments, the Federal Revenues Secretariat will issue regulations to allow the reduction provided for in Paragraph 1 of the previous article;

Single paragraph. In the case mentioned in this article, payments can be made only in cruzeiros.

Article 9. According to the provisions of this provisional measure, the following are considered taxpayers:

I. The redeemer, in the cases discussed in Item I of Article 1;

II. The transferrer, in the cases discussed in Item II of Article 1;

III. The transferrer and redeemer, in cases discussed in Item IV of Article 1;

IV. The transferrer and the issuer, in the cases mentioned in Item IV of Article 1;

V. The depositor, in the cases discussed in Item V of Article 1.

Article 10. To facilitate the implementation and control of this provisional measure, the fiscal authority of the Central Bank and the Federal Revenues Secretariat has been authorized, at no risk to legally established secrecy, to control agencies of the Housing Financial System and of any institution that may directly or indirectly interfere in the certificate or securities markets, including financial institutions, brokerage companies, and dealers, who will be required to provide information requested by that authority.

Article 11. Certificates, securities, and gold that are kept in safekeeping will be released only after payment of the tax that is herewith established.

Article 12. The Central Bank of Brazil and the Federal Revenues Secretariat, in a joint action, will issue the necessary measures for the effective implementation of this provisional measure, especially measures setting deadlines for tax payments.

Article 13. This provisional measure will be in effect as of the date of its publication.

Fernando Collor

Provisional Measure 161: Income Tax Legislation

*PY2503021090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 21*

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 161, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] Changes are hereby introduced in income tax legislation of individuals and additional measures are issued.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, hereby decrees the following provisional measure, which is binding as law:

Article 1. Beginning in fiscal year 1991 and based on income year 1990:

I. Income tax on profits from the export of national manufactured products and services will be 30 percent.

II. The additions mentioned in Article 39 of Law 7799, dated 10 July 1989, on export profits will continue to be in effect.

III. Fiscal benefits mentioned in Law 6297 of 15 December 1975, Article 21 of Law 7232 of 29 October 1984, Law 7505 of 2 July 1986, Article 32 of Law 7646 of 18 December 1987, Law 7752 of 14 April 1989, and the incentives for the training of personnel in the use of computers sanctioned by Law 7232/84, Article 13, Item V are eliminated.

IV. The option for individuals to use part of their income taxes to invest in the following funds will cease until determined otherwise:

a. Northeast or Amazonia Investment Funds (Decree-Law 1376/74, Article 11, Paragraph I) and in the Espirito Santo State Economic Recovery Fund (Decree-Law 1376/74, Article 11, Paragraphs I and V);

b. In reinvestment deposits as determined by Law 5508, Article 23 of 11 October 1968, and Article 29 of Decree-Law 756 of August 1969, and later amendments;

Paragraph 1. In calculating anticipated payments of income tax, as determined by Decree-Law 2354 of 24 August 1987, the tax department will consider the effects of the reduction or elimination of fiscal incentives, the percentage changes, and the effect of the additions discussed below;

Paragraph 2. Fiscal incentives suspended by Paragraph IV of this article will be reviewed during the suspension period in order to introduce necessary changes.

Article 2. Article 2, Paragraph 1, Item c of Law 7689 of 15 December 1989 is amended as follows:

Article 2.....

Paragraph 1.....

c. tax reports, calculated according to commercial laws, will be adjusted by:

1. The addition of the negative result of the evaluation of investments by the value of net assets;

2. The addition of the value of the reevaluation reserve, which became effective during the base-period, whose equivalent has not been computed in the result of the base-period;

3. The addition of the value of nondeductible items in the determination of actual profit, excluding items referring to income tax;

4. The exclusion of the positive result of the evaluation of investments by the value of net assets;

5. The exclusion of profits and dividends from investments evaluated by the purchasing cost, which have been computed as income;

6. The exclusion of the added value, adjusted for inflation, of the items referred to in Item 3, which became effective during the base-period;

Article 3. The credit for Industrialized Products Tax, IPI, granted on raw materials, semi-finished products, and packaging materials purchased for the manufacture of products that will eventually be shipped to the Manaus Free Trade Zone or to Western Amazonia will be canceled through an off-setting entry in the taxpayer's fiscal records.

Article 4. This provisional measure will go into force on the day it is published.

Brasilia, 15 March 1990; 169th year of independence and 102d year of the Republic.

Provisional Measure 162: Tax on Market Profits

*PY2503014890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 21*

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 162, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] It has been determined that the net profits made at the stock exchange, the merchandise exchange, the futures exchange, and similar markets should be subject to income tax.

Exercising the authority bestowed upon him by Article 62 of the Constitution, the president of the Republic adopts the following provisional measure, which will have binding legal power:

Article 1. Article 55 of Law 7799, dated 10 July 1989, will go into force with the following text:

"Article 55. Individuals or corporations that are tax-exempt or do not pay taxes on the basis of real profit but make a profit from operations in the stock exchange, the merchandise exchange, the futures exchange, or other organized markets recognized by supervisory organizations have to pay 25 percent of that profit as income tax."

Article 2. This provisional measure goes into force on the day it is published.

Article 3. Item II of Article 22 and Paragraph 5 of Article 40 of Law 7713, dated 22 December 1988, and other contradicting provisions are hereby revoked.

Brasilia, 15 March 1990; 169th year of independence and 102d year of the Republic.

Provisional Measure 163: Dismissal of Employees
PY2403184290 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 21

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 163, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] This measure regulates the conditions for the dismissal of public employees.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, adopts this provisional measure, which is binding as law:

Article 1. For the good of the public service, public employees may be dismissed if they:

I. hinder, through action or omission, the partial or total collection of taxes, tariffs, duties, or compulsory loans, which are owed to the Federal Government;

II. facilitate, through action or omission, crimes against the Public Treasury.

Single Paragraph. This article considers as public employees all persons mentioned on Article 327 and paragraphs of the Penal Code, whenever they are charged with the responsibility of supervising compliance with the terms of the tax laws, the payment of compulsory loans, and of contributions to social welfare, which are established by the Federal Government.

Article 2. The administrative process to investigate responsibility for the action or omission referred to in Article 1 will be ordered by the minister to whom the public employee is subordinated. The employee will be punished in accordance with the sanctions established in Articles 219 to 239 of Law 1711, dated 28 October 1952 (Statute of the Civilian Federal Government Public Employees).

Article 3. This provisional measure goes into effect on the day it is published.

Article 4. All contradictory provisions are hereby revoked.

Brasilia, 15 March 1990; 169th year of independence and 102d year of the Republic.

Provisional Measure 164: Federal Tax Payments
PY2503224090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 17 Mar 90 p 21

["Text" of government's Provisional Measure 164, issued in Brasilia on 15 March]

[Text] This measure regulates the payment of taxes by the Federal Government.

The president of the Republic, exercising the authority vested in him by Article 62 of the Constitution, hereby decrees the following provisional measure, which is binding as law.

Article 1. In operations subject to taxation carried out as of 1 April 1990, conversions to fiscal BTN's [National Treasury Bonds adjusted daily for inflation] of the following will be made:

I. Manufactured Goods Tax, IPI, on the first day two weeks after the realization of the operation subject to taxation;

II. Tax on income withheld at the source [imposto sobre a renda retido na fonte], IRRF, on the first day after the realization of the operation subject to taxation, except as provided for in Article 70 of Law 7799 of 10 July 1989;

III. Tax on credit, exchange, and insurance operations, and on operations related to certificates and securities, IOF [Financial Operations Tax]:

a. In operations with gold or financial assets, on the first day of the month after the realization of the operation subject to taxation;

b. In other cases, on the first day after the collection of the tax or the day after the registration of the tax;

IV. Tax on sugar and alcohol, as treated by Decree-Laws 308 of 28 February 1967 and 1712 of 24 November 1979 and the additions provided for in Decree-Law 1952 of July 1982, on the first day of the month following the collection;

V. Tax on contributions for the Social Investment Fund, Finsocial; for the Social Integration Program, PIS; and the Civil Servants Welfare Fund, PASEP, on the first day of the month after the operation subject to taxation.

Paragraph 1. The conversion of the tax or contribution will be made through a division of the due value by the value of the fiscal BTN on the dates established in this article.

Paragraph 2. The value in cruzeiros of the tax or contribution will be determined by multiplying its value, expressed in fiscal BTN, by the value of the fiscal BTN on the payment date.

Article 2. The values of the tax treated in Articles 8, 23, 25, 40, and 45 of Law 7713 of 22 December 1988, with the later changes, will be converted into fiscal BTN at the value of the fiscal BTN on the first day of the month after the operation subject to taxation took place.

Article 3. Law 7713 of 22 December 1988, with the changes introduced by Laws 7799 of 10 July 1989 and 7959 of 21 December 1989, is hereby in effect with the following changes:

"Article 24 (...) [quotation mark as published]

Paragraph 2. The difference of the tax collected on a monthly basis will be converted into fiscal BTN by dividing it by the value of the fiscal BTN on the first day of the month after that difference has been determined.

(...)

Paragraph 5. (...)

a. No installment will be lower than 35 fiscal BTN, and tax values lower than 70 fiscal BTN will be paid all at once;

Paragraph 6. The fiscal BTN treated in this article will be converted into national currency according to the value of the fiscal BTN on the day of payment of the tax or installment.

(...)

Article 4. The taxpayer, the individual who has exercised his option as provided for in Article 24 of Law 7713 of 1988, will determine the value, in cruzeiros, of the installments or the balance of the tax to be paid in relation to the base-year of 1989, by multiplying the value, conveyed in BTN, by the value:

I. Of the BTN at the month of payment, if paid totally to the last day of the month of April 1990;

II. Of the Fiscal BTN on the day of payment, when the collection is made after the date established in the previous item.

Single paragraph. The method for converting the tax value in cruzeiros discussed in Item I is applied in relation to the tax to be paid from January to March 1990 that the taxpayer with more than one source of income (Law 7713/88, Article 23) will accrue up to the last working day of the month of April 1990.

Article 5. The income tax resulting from capital gains earned by individuals from sales of goods and rights of any nature to individuals or persons with legal status, as treated in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 3 of Law 7713 of 22 December 1988, converted into fiscal BTN as provided in Article 2 of this provisional measure, must be paid by the last working day in the first fortnight of the month following the drawing of profits, in compliance with the provision to Article 21 of Law 7713 of 1988.

Article 6. Deposits of funds from taxes on salaries and contributions to the Institute for the Administration of Social Assistance and Welfare, IAPAS, will be transferred [to the National Treasury] on the second working day after the deposits are made.

Paragraph 1. Debts of any nature to the Social Security Institute resulting from operations subject to taxation that have taken place by 1 April 1990 will be converted into fiscal BTN on the first working day after the operation.

Paragraph 2. The value of the debt in cruzeiros on the date of payment will be determined in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 1.

Article 7. This provisional measure will come into effect on the date of its publication.

Article 8. All provisions to the contrary are hereby revoked.

Brasilia, 15 March 1990; 169th year of independence and 102d year of the Republic.

Colombia

Lemos 'Will Not Resign' or Postpone Elections

PA2403141190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1217 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota—I see no reason why elections should be postponed, Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has said emphatically.

Upon leaving a meeting that he held into late last night, Lemos said that as far as he knows, the election date is set by law. With this statement Lemos Simmonds responded to the request of the the Social Conservative Party and the Patriotic Union [UP] to postpone the 27 May elections.

In addition, Lemos Simmonds has said that he does not feel President Virgilio Barco Vargas has disavowed him. I do not feel that I am under suspicion, he stressed. Moreover, President Barco, in his letter to the UP, discounts any recent actions linking that group with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]. The word recent implies that there might have been something before. However, we can discuss this subject later, Lemos Simmonds said. He added that he will not resign and has no intentions of doing so.

After a meeting with German Montoya, secretary general of the Presidency and Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, and according to Lemos Simmonds, the subject of his resignation was not discussed. The meeting, however, served to erase doubts as to whether he would continue as government minister.

Asked if he has President Barco's support, Lemos Simmonds said: If I talk to the president and responds to me as a minister, then nothing has changed. He is the president and I am the minister, he added.

Lemos Simmonds reiterated that the government has concluded that there is no reason to postpone the presidential elections slated for May of this year, noting again that the date was not decided arbitrarily, but by law.

Regarding the proposal made by the Social Conservative Party and the UP to postpone the elections because of the lack of guarantees regarding security, Government Minister Lemos Simmonds has ruled out that possibility, stressing that the government has already given, and will continue to grant, full guarantees to all the political groups participating in the elections.

Resigns Amid Protests

PA2503234690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
2325 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar (DPA)—Colombian Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds, who was recently accused

by leftist leaders of "encouraging the dirty war," resigned today, the private radio network Caracol has reported, quoting presidential sources.

Lemos Simmonds, who assumed office on 8 October 1989, said on 20 March that the UP, now a legal leftist party, "is the political arm" of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. This statement was interpreted by several UP leaders as "an authorization to the paramilitary squads to attack our movement."

Two days after Lemos Simmonds' remarks, UP presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa was gunned down. UP members said at once that "the words of Lemos Simmonds encouraged the paid assassins."

Dozens of UP active members declared a hunger strike to demand that President Virgilio Barco remove "the minister who sponsors murders or at least makes irresponsible statements." The demonstrators' request was supported by several leaders of the Social Conservative Party, the leading opposition organization.

Jaramillo Ossa, an aggressive parliamentarian, had reported again and again that "the gunmen who are mowing us down are supported by government officials and high-ranking military officers."

Serpa Named Government Minister

PA2603020090 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0133 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas has accepted the resignation of Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds and has appointed Senator Horacio Serpa Uribe to replace him. For his part, Serpa Uribe accepted the appointment as government minister.

Outgoing Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds expressed, in his letter of resignation his indignation over the government's silence in the face of the opposition's charges.

Roundup on Public Order Situation Across Nation

PA2303173190

[Editorial Report] Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1410 GMT on 23 March begins to broadcast reports from its correspondents in several Colombian cities on the country's public order situation after the assassination of Bernardo Jaramillo, Patriotic Union, UP, presidential candidate.

According to the correspondent in Santa Marta, "the authorities of Magdalena Department have reported a completely normal situation in the past 24 hours." She added that classes were suspended throughout the department on 23 March.

The reporter in Barranquilla, capital of Atlantico Department, states that members of the UP will hold a symbolic funeral for the assassinated UP leader today. He adds that so far, three marches have been held but

they have all been peaceful. According to the correspondent, "the headquarters of the Army's 2d Brigade has just issued a report indicating that the situation is completely normal in Atlantico, Bolivar, Magdalena, Cesar, and Guajira departments."

The reporter in Ibague indicates that the authorities have reported a normal situation in Tolima Department. He adds that UP supporters will stage a protest march in Ibague today.

According to the station announcer, "Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana today reported that the public order situation in the country's capital is normal. The mayor explained that after last night's disturbances in the Policarpa neighborhood in the center of the city, the authorities have the situation under control."

The station announcer reports that "there were incidents in several departments after the assassination of Bernardo Jaramillo. In Pasto, capital of Narino Department, UP members occupied the municipal building, and the mayor and some of his officials are still being held." The station's correspondent in Pasto reports that the police have cordoned off the municipal building where Mayor Herman Guerrero Lopez has been held for 23 hours. He says the mayor is being held with some of his officials and that several councilmen who were elected in the recent elections have voluntarily joined the "peaceful occupation" of the mayor's office.

The correspondent in Barrancabermeja, a port on the Magdalena River, indicates that after 13 hours of a civic strike, only 5 percent of businesses are open and there is no bus or railroad service. He adds that "last night there were sporadic confrontations with soldiers and police and that some people were arrested but later released." The newsman reports that schools are closed and the mayor prohibited the sale of liquor. The strike will end at 2200.

The station announcer reports that the activities at the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, Ecopetrol, have been suspended for 48 hours due to a strike begun by workers on 22 March.

According to the correspondent in Bucaramanga, capital of Santander Department, "there is relative calm today after the protests by UP members against the assassination of presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo." He adds that schools are closed and the sale of liquor is prohibited.

In an interview, Bogota Traffic Director Rubiel Valencia reports that "some of the transportation problems in southern Bogota were solved after a meeting with bus owners; they will resume their normal service."

Police Report Details Jaramillo Assassination

PA2403044790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 0133 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The Administrative Department of Security [DAS] this afternoon revealed new details on the investigations taking place in connection with the assassination of Patriotic Union President Bernardo Jaramillo.

DAS has reported that the killer, Andres Arturo Gutierrez, who was wounded and captured following the attack, was part of one, out of 85 known groups of hired killers, operating in Medellin.

DAS has issued a communique noting that the young killer was trained on a Belmira farm in Antioquia and that later he travelled with two persons to Bogota to become acquainted with the location of the attack on Jaramillo.

Intelligence reports by the security organization reveal that the young killer made his first trip to the country's capital on 1 March, and a second trip on 15 March. During the last trip he was given 300,000 pesos as down payment for committing the crime.

Gutierrez is the fourth son of a Medellin's El Siso neighborhood family. Enduring a difficult economic situation, he studied until the 10th grade at the Jose Maria Cordoba Secondary School, in Buenos Aires neighborhood. In 1988 he engaged in activities characteristic of young people, but also in criminal activities.

Medellin Cartel's Escobar Denies Role

PA2303133690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1253 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Medellin—Diego Montana Cuellar, president of the Patriotic Union [UP], has received a letter signed by Pablo Escobar Gaviria, in which he emphatically denies any participation in the assassination of Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa.

The letter, which carries Escobar Gaviria's signature and fingerprint, was also sent to the Medellin media.

In his letter to the UP, Escobar Gaviria stated: I always liked, admired, and respected Bernardo Jaramillo.

Escobar Gaviria disclosed that he met several times to intercede with Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha to ensure that Jaramillo Ossa's life would be respected. Escobar Gaviria added: This can be confirmed by many members of Jaramillo Ossa's political movement and even by some of his DAS bodyguards who were witnesses at those meetings. [sentence as heard]

In his letter to Montana Cuellar, Escobar Gaviria said he was amazed by how easily and quickly the government has found someone to blame.

State security agency spokesmen said on 22 March that they have proof linking Escobar Gaviria to the assassination. The Associated Press [AP] has also received

telephone calls in which an alleged spokesmen of the Medellin Cartel claimed responsibility for the assassination of Jaramillo Ossa.

In his letter to the UP, Escobar Gaviria disavows those calls, stating: Why should I attack someone who was firmly opposed to Colombia surrendering to the United States?

Opposition Parties Request Government Guarantees

PA2303182890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1642 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 23 Mar (EFE)—Opposition Social Conservative Party [PCS], 19 April Movement (M-19), Patriotic Union (UP), and the Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] met today at the national capitol and decided to jointly face the violent crisis the country is experiencing. The UP, the party of Bernardo Jaramillo, slain on 22 March at the El Dorado Airport, called the meeting that ended with the call for another meeting to define a common stance for Colombia's opposition regarding the electoral campaign.

As some of the participants told EFE, the purpose of the meeting was to make the government understand that the opposition needs guarantees in order to participate in politics. The opposition parties also asked to have an interlocutor from the government who will ensure constant communication and submit complaints. The participants of this meeting said the opposition feels that Colombian democracy is lacking. Carlos Pizarro, chief of the recently disarmed M-19 party, said at the meeting that the alternative is peace. The fate of the entire country is at stake, he noted. Carlos Pizarro, the former M-19 commander and now a political leader, feels that another larger meeting is necessary to raise national awareness because the country is on the verge of a civil war.

PCC Secretary General Gilberto Vieira said the Bargo regime must be held accountable for the murders and the political insecurity. The government, he said, is responsible for Bernardo Jaramillo's murder and must respond so that similar attacks do not happen again.

We want to know what the government's position is regarding the opposition's rights, what guarantees do we have in the political campaign, and if we have a pluralist democracy or a system that impedes our parties, PSC leader Misael Pastrana told the press.

The conservative leader and former president insisted that in addition to analyzing the threats (against politicians) from unknown groups must, we must analyze the rules of the political game which, in Colombia, do not conform to the rules of a democracy. According to the PSC leader, Jaramillo's death puts the government in a tight spot. Any democracy would practically be destroyed if it had paid the high cost of losing two candidates (Liberal Luis Carlos Galan and Bernardo Jaramillo) during a presidential campaign, as our democracy has. Pastrana also said the death of UP presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo diminishes the credibility of Colombia's presidential elections. The

country is no longer split along a two-party system, it is pluralist, and the presence of third parties brings fresh air to the democratic climate given the polarized positions of the traditional political parties, the Colombian politician remarked.

The press has learned that during the meeting the opposition parties asked UP to stay in the electoral campaign. Following Jaramillo's murder, the UP decided to pull out of the presidential campaign. However, it was proposed at the meeting to invite the UP to name a new candidate, who will be allowed extra time to be included in the electoral debate. Misael Pastrana, along with Gilberto Vieira, the PCC secretary general for 40 years, has insisted that the Barco government lacks leadership. There is no government, no state, or nation in this country, he said.

Want Guarantees, Elections Postponed

PA2403032190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 0120 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Report by Orlando Guerrero]

[Text] Good evening, a communique has just been issued at the National Capitol. The communique has been signed by all the democratic forces of the country, with the exception of the Liberal Party. The communique asks the government to offer full guarantees during the election process and to postpone the upcoming elections. The following is the communique that has been issued in the Eliptico Room of the National Capitol:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We report to the Colombian people, and the people of the world the following:

1. We once again condemn the vile murder of presidential candidate Dr. Bernardo Jaramillo. This murder has made evident the lack of guarantees in the country; guarantees that the government has systematically denied the opposition parties. We reject the manipulations in which official organizations are engaged in connection with investigating this crime.

2. We denounce that the official apparatus is at the service of only one candidate and that it is prepared to establish party predominance that would, in practice, be a rejection of democratic pluralism.

3. We demand full guarantees for all the forces participating in the elections and equitable access to the state media so that these forces can make known their political positions.

4. We request guarantees that the new electoral system will not have the same difficulties that existed during the 11 March elections, the results of which are still unknown.

5. Under the current conditions, we ask our representatives in the National Electoral Council to abstain from participating in discussions and decisions of that council.

6. In view of these circumstances, we have agreed to temporarily suspend our election campaigns and demand a postponement of the presidential elections scheduled for 27 May.

7. We insist that the ratification of Carlos Lemos Simmonds in the Government Ministry represents the biggest obstacle to the democratic opposition to finding an institutional interlocutor in national government.

8. We announce the immediate presence of international [words indistinct] to verify that the electoral guarantees we are demanding are granted, and to observe the elections process.

9. The Permanent Committee of the Opposition hereby states its decision to work for the formation of a constituent national assembly that must have a democratic and pluralistic composition with the deciding participation of the national [word indistinct] to approve a new constitution and to contribute toward finding political solutions to the social conflict of Colombia. We appeal to the leaders of the country to urge the national government to defend and respect human rights.

10. We reiterate our position that the only way out of the armed conflict in the country is a negotiated political solution.

11. We urge the Liberal Party to postpone its national convention in solidarity with the Patriotic Union and the Colombian people.

12. We acknowledge the Catholic Church's call and we will promote this call through this committee.

13. In defense of a pluralistic democracy we will maintain the Permanent Committee of the Opposition we have created. We hereby ask our followers and all our countrymen to remain on a state of alert.

This committee will hold a new meeting Tuesday 27 March, at 1500, in the Chamber of Representatives. We urge all political and social forces interested in these objectives to actively participate in this meeting.

Resolution;

Democratic Socialism, the Popular Movement [words indistinct], the Broad Front [words indistinct], the Nationalist Action for Peace, and the M-19 want to leave on record the following:

The negotiation process between the national government and M-19, that began on 10 January 1989 and that produced on 9 March 1990 a peace agreement, will be affected by the murder of Bernardo Jaramillo, but will not result in an end to the search for peace by the two parties.

We will continue to work for a political solution to the armed conflict in Colombia. [end recording]

Opposition Group's Comment on Jaramillo Killing

FARC Launches Terrorist Attacks

PA2303133990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1245 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Popayan—Members of the 8th Front of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] have carried out terrorist attacks in southern Cauca Department to protest Patriotic Union [UP] presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa's murder.

The FARC members blew up a power substation and an electrical tower in Sajandi, La Fonda Corregimiento. The guerrillas also burned three vehicles on the Pan-American Highway—a Balboa Hospital ambulance, a fuel truck carrying 3,000 gallons of gasoline, and a station wagon. A large section of El Patia Valley was left without electricity.

Through several telephone calls to the Popayan media, the 8th FARC Front declared the Pan-American Highway a military target during the next 48 hours in order to demand that the government investigate and arrest those who are truly responsible for Jaramillo's murder.

Transportation services between [word indistinct] and Pasto in southern Colombia have been suspended as a result of the terrorist attacks, which began at 0300 today.

Police and 3d Infantry Brigade members were deployed to the areas where the 8th Front of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia blocked traffic. The 8th FARC Front members said their military actions are aimed at demanding the clarification of UP presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo's murder.

The Popayan Police Department confirmed that the attacks took place on the Pan-American Highway and at La Fonda Corregimiento, Patia Municipality.

Governor Fernando Iraconi said that the regional security council will meet in Popayan in a few minutes to assess the most recent terrorist attacks and to adopt the necessary measures.

UP Asks for Media Objectivity

PA2303174990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1634 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Patriotic Union President Diego Montana Cuellar has just issued a communique to the national government which outlines the UP's position regarding the responsibility for the murder of Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa. Here is the communique.

[Begin Montana Cuellar recording, in progress] ... takes place in the country at a time when none of the more than 1,000 crimes against our movement has been solved.

We believe that the government [words indistinct] diverts the attention from the public to reinforce its international image and to evade the its political responsibility for this crime in view of the prevailing impunity.

It is regrettable that a tragedy of this magnitude is being subject to manipulation and for political purposes [words indistinct] if there is still any [words indistinct] in this country.

We urge the media not to let themselves be used as a sounding board for the government's manipulating intentions [words indistinct] truth, no matter how painful and [word indistinct] it may be, will benefit the nation and the government itself.

[Signed] UP National Directorate, Diego Montana Cuellar [end recording]

ELN Blames Government

PA2303194890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1856 GMT
23 mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 23 mar (EFE) — The Army of National Liberation (ELN) today accused the Colombian Government of killing leftwing leader Bernardo Jaramillo. The ELN has asserted that the Virgilio Barco government practices a policy of slander, persecution, and extermination of the leftwing movement.

The rebels, who left a communique at the EFE news agency mailbox in Bogota, have proposed that Colombians refuse to vote in the 27 May presidential elections in which Jaramillo was running as the Patriotic Union coalition candidate.

We should not vote to show our disapproval; we should not vote to show our self-respect; and we should not vote to disown the ruling political class and to isolate them, the note issued by the ELN states.

The guerrilla group, founded 25 years ago, has denounced the disastrous government of the Barco administration, which, according to them, has been promoting a dirty war.

The assassination of Jaramillo Ossa has unleashed protest demonstrations in Colombia ranging from people's marches to symbolic funerals and strikes.

The UP National Directorate has blamed the government for the assassination of their leader.

ELN To Release 14 Soldiers 'Safe and Sound'

PA2403002190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 21 Mar (EFE)—The Colombian, pro-Castroite National Liberation Army (ELN), guerrilla group today offered to deliver "safe and sound" 14 soldiers held since 23 February as a result of an attack on Bombona Battalion's military base in Antioquia, in the northeast of the country.

The ELN deposited an envelope today at the EFE delegation's mailbox in Bogota, containing a photograph of the 14 "prisoners of war," who are apparently in good health, along with copies of communiques sent to General Attorney Alfonso Gomez Mendez and to the kidnapped soldiers' relatives.

The subversive organization says in the communiques that it agrees to turn over the hostage soldiers to a commission comprised of members of Red Cross International, the Attorney General's office, the Human Rights Committee of Antioquia, Social Conservative Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran, and the soldiers' families.

"This commission shall guarantee that the soldiers' lives will be respected by the regime's repressive forces," the communique to the general attorney says.

The ELN reports that the "14 prisoners of war were transferred to the Nueva Colombia camps and that they were treated according to the international humanitarian laws ruling on these cases. The photographs attached to this communique prove they are in good health."

The rebel group adds: "Our attitude contrasts with that of the Army."

In an open letter to the soldiers' relatives, the ELN states: "You can rest assured that they face no danger from us. The soldiers have written some letters and they were allowed to take some photographs for you."

The guerrilla members also explained to the relatives that "neither you nor the soldiers are responsible for the country's problems," and warned the government that "either you stop the dirty war or the oligarchs' heads will roll."

Six Killed, Two Kidnapped in Various Regions

*PA2403163590 Paris AFP in Spanish
0602 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Bogota, 23 Mar (AFP)—As a result of violent actions which occurred throughout the country on 23 March, six people were killed, two were kidnapped, several others were injured, and a considerable amount of property was damaged.

The Magdalena Department police on the northern Colombian coast reported that two policemen and three guerrillas were killed on 23 March during a rebel attack in the small town of Bellavista. Regional Police Commander Colonel Hugo Pulido said that some of the wounded guerrillas who managed to escape, as well as some of the dead ones, belong to the pro-Castro Army of National Liberation (ELN). The rebels failed in their attempt to occupy Bellavista, located near Sierra Nevada, 1,000 km from Bogota.

In the southern Cauca Department, 500 km from Bogota, members of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) burned two fuel

trucks (one of them loaded with gasoline) and an ambulance. The FARC rebels blew up a power tower and an energy substation near El Bordo.

Meanwhile, a Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) commando kidnapped cattlemen Rafael Pertuz and Ernesto Garcia in Cordoba Department in northern Colombia. Apparently, the EPL members took the two men to a region that borders Antioquia Department.

In addition, unidentified men shot Rene Castillo, [age indistinct], to death in the town of Almeida, Boyaca Department, 200 km north of Bogota. Castillo was the leader of the regional teachers' union.

The authorities reported that on the night of 23 March, a moderately powerful explosive went off across the street from the ruling Liberal Party headquarters in Cali, 500 km west of Bogota, slightly injuring Mauricio Garcia, 20, who was passing by at the time of the explosion.

The property damage is minor, but the police have begun searching for terrorists and have reinforced surveillance at other political party offices and vulnerable spots in Colombia's third largest city.

Ecuador

Borja Interviewed on Relations With Mexico

*FL2403170890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1631 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Report by Antonio Ortega]

[Text] Quito, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja stated today that the Ecuadoran Government is interested in opening up areas of investment to Mexican capital. In an exclusive interview granted to NOTIMEX at the Palace of Government, Borja stated that Mexico and Ecuador must define their dialogue and system of reciprocal consultations about problems in the Latin American region.

A few hours before the arrival in this country of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Borja said: The interest we have in increasing trade with Mexico and investment of Mexican capital in Ecuador should not suffer any damage. Borja asserted that Salinas de Gortari's visit of about 20 hours in this capital goes beyond protocol in a desire for friendly rapprochement, technical cooperation, and trade promotion.

He stressed that there are specific issues he will bring up in his two private meetings with the Mexican president, particularly in the areas of tourism and oil, in which Mexico has made a lot of progress, he said. He mentioned possible Mexican-Ecuadoran participation in building a chemical plant, which would take the form of cooperation concerning hydrocarbons and, obviously, petrochemicals.

The Ecuadoran president also stated that Mexico and his country could confront a joint fight against drug trafficking and should intensify their dialogue in this regard. Borja believes that in light of the policy Salinas de Gortari is implementing in Mexico and his public opinions: I think he is a man with a consistent ideological and political background, extensive experience in handling public issues, and a complete mastery of economic matters.

He stressed that the Mexican president has shown great dedication to international openness, as his travels abroad show. In Ecuador he will be received with the affection the Ecuadoran people have always had for Mexico and all Mexicans. President Salinas de Gortari—who is concluding his visit to Chile today—is expected to arrive in Ecuador at 1530 [2030 GMT].

Bridge To Be Built at Border With Colombia

*PA2403000990 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
hj 2300 GMT 20 Mar 90*

[Text] On 19 March the governments of Ecuador and Colombia signed an agreement to build an international bridge over the San Miguel River, located at the common border.

The project, which has an initial cost of 527 million sucres, will join the province of Sucumbios with the Putumay Intendency.

Priscilla Ceballos and Juan Neira, the Colombian and Ecuadoran public works ministers, respectively, stressed that through the agreement it will no longer be necessary to cross the river by canoe, which is dangerous, and that it will facilitate the flow of products between the two nations.

[Begin Cevallos recording, in progress] ... will connect Quito and the Amazonian Colombian-Ecuadoran region with the Colombian Atlantic Coast, reducing travel time as follows: From Quito to Bogota, by 11 hours, covering 616 km; from Bogota to the Atlantic Coast by 9 hours.

In addition to this macroeconomic development, the construction of the bridge will considerably improve the conditions in nearby areas by linking (La Junta) and San Miguel by road. Travelling time will be no more than 15 minutes compared to the one hour it now takes to cross the river by boat.

We must also note the reduction or elimination of transfers and the availability and confidence that the new system will bring, which will result in a reduction of transportation costs. [end recording]

Ecuadoran Minister Juan Neira said that Ecuador and Colombia will pay 50 percent each for the construction of the binational bridge.

[Begin Neira recording] The two governments will contribute 50 percent of the total cost of the project, which has been initially estimated at 1,135 million sucres,

including readjustments for which the national government, specifically the Ecuadoran Public Works Ministry, has received funds from the Andean Development Fund. In addition, Ecuadoran Public Works Ministry personnel will be in charge of supervising the project. [end recording]

AVC Group Denies Responsibility for Attacks

*PA2503003390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Text] Quito, 24 Mar (EFE)—The former subversive group Alfaro Lives Dammit (AVC) denied any responsibility today for the attacks carried out this week against the home of the mother of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, an evening newspaper, and a radio station. AVC leader Edgar Frias said the country knows that they are in a position of rebellion against the government, but without using weapons and while respecting the agreements signed with the government. He noted, however, that there is a climate of dissatisfaction in the country.

On 23 March, several persons fired a number of shots at the home of Aurelia Cevallos de Borja, the mother of the Ecuadoran president, and wounded the policeman guarding her house, which is located in downtown Quito.

The day before, an explosion partially damaged the building that houses the Radio Carousel radio station and the evening newspaper LA RAZON. It has not been determined yet whether the explosion was caused by an explosive device or by a faulty hot-water system.

Frias added that there are sectors who seek to portray them as demons and to create a false image of them. He said that his group has not launched any kind of military action.

Frias said that his organization, which signed a peace agreement with Borja's government last year, will hold a national conference before June to discuss the possibility of turning over their weapons in much the same way that Colombia's 19 April Movement (M-19) did. In the past, the AVC and the M-19 had staged several joint actions in both countries.

Venezuela

National Troops To Be Transferred to Nicaragua

*PA2303185490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1805 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Caracas, 23 Mar (DPA)—Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart has announced that the Venezuelan battalion, which had been a part of the United Nations peace forces in Namibia, will be transferred to Nicaragua to cooperate in the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels.

In remarks to the Venezuelan press from Windhoek, Namibia, Foreign Minister Figueredo Planchart has said that approximately 700 members of the Antonio Nicolas

Briceno Battalion of paratroopers, stationed in the west central city of Maracay, will receive the weapons from the contras.

The Venezuelan minister, who participated in the Namibian independence events, met twice this week with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to express his government's willingness to send troops who had been part of the United Nations "Blue Helmets."

Most of the Venezuelan troops will be stationed on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, where the main contra camps are located. A smaller group will be sent to the border with Costa Rica.

The mission of the "special Venezuelan security unit" will last four to six weeks. Nevertheless, a final decision on its deployment will be made by the UN Security Council, which will subsequently make an official request to Venezuela.

Guyana

Hoyte Says Kennedy's Election Concerns 'Misled'

*FL2303004990 Bridgetown CANA in English
2320 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 22, CANA—The Guyana Government on Thursday [22 March] described comments United States Senator Edward Kennedy made on the political and social situation here as erroneous, inappropriate and unacceptable. It said the Senator has been misled by persons with political axes to grind.

In a statement to CANA on Wednesday, Kennedy urged the Guyana Government to make sure that general elections expected here soon "are free and fair".

Among other things, the senator from Massachusetts said, "although there has been progress on human rights, the problem of unfair elections in the past has created a lack of confidence in the electoral process which has resulted in a mass exodus of many of Guyana's skilled and educated citizens, contributed to the nation's troubled economy, and prevented many of those who remain from having a voice in the future of their country".

He said too he was "also concerned that party-controlled elections commissions have impeded fair elections. I hope that an independent commission will be established to carry out voter registration and conduct the elections in a manner open to scrutiny by all parties and the press and free from government interference."

In a statement, the Guyana Government said President Desmond Hoyte had earlier responded to a critical letter the senator had written last December.

"The president, in his reply, identified a number of factual errors with which the senator's letter was riddled and regretted that the senator had allowed himself to be misled by persons who had political axes to grind. The president also clarified many misconceptions about our constitutional and other arrangements under which the senator appeared to be labouring," it said.

"The government of Guyana hopes that the senator will take time to study and reflect on the the president's letter and documents sent to him. It is to be hoped that, after such a study, a more sober and objective judgement might prevail.

"In the meantime, the government of Guyana has no alternative but to reject the statement attributed to Senator Kennedy as being erroneous, inappropriate and unacceptable," the government statement concluded.